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Why the Church will lose from the divorce vote



New pressure for public inquiry 1,000 clues to the Wests' other victims

WILL BENNETT and COLIN BROWN

Detectives in the Cromwell Street murder inquiry are following several new leads after their appeal for information on nine missing women known to have visited Frederick and

Rosemary Wests' home. But police yesterday stressed that there was no evidence that the women had come to any harm and said that they had no plans to start fresh searches for human remains. Police still have more than 1,000 incomplete lines of inquiry to check and a decision is to be made about which to follow up.

As controversy grew over the alleged failure by Gloucestershire police, health and social services departments to spot warning signs of abuse and murder in Cromwell Street, government ministers sought to avoid becoming embroiled in the row.

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, last night resisted pressure from his own backbenchers for a public inquiry. Ministers are adamant that the system has been improved since the Maria Colwell inquiry in 1974, and that it ensured that police inform social services departments of child abuse suspects.

lory backbencher Emma Nicholson argued yesterday that Government claims that chilren had adequate protection were not true. " Today's children are not protected. I am in utter despair at the exposure of professional incompetence and of the inadequacy of systems. I am appalled by the failure of the the position of the Press Comservices to look after those children. All they are saying is that it is all too difficult and it was a long time ago. It is absolutely desperate. I feel so

strongly I can't bear it." Miss Nicholson demanded the resignation of "those in authority" in the case and called

to prevent tabloid newspapers buying up potential witnesses in major criminal cases. At least seven witnesses at the Winchester trail of Rosemary West spoke of media deals of up to £100,000. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the

Emma Nicholson: demand

ceedings out of the water.

"Are we running a criminal justice system as an entertainment business, or something the public has confidence in and which will deliver justice?" said Sir Nicholas.

plaints Commission following claims that Lord McGregor, its former chairman, had told a tabloid editor that he would not be in breach of the code of conduct for newspapers by paying a witness for a story because the rules were so ambiguous.

for a Royal Commission "to look at the whole way we pro-

emerged with calls for new laws Attorney General, who will



for Royal Commission

conduct a review of the law on payments to witnesses with the Lord Chancelior and the Home Office, said the payments were like a form of Russian roulette

There was confusion over A leading social services of-

tect vulnerable children" A second strand of criticism

ficial said last night that there was no guarantee that there could not be another case like the West catalogue of murder and abuse. "No one with any sense can give an absolute guarantee that it couldn't happen again," said John Ransford, honorary secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services. "But we can, with a degree of certainty ... it is extremely unlikely that a situation like that would build up and the signs not be picked up.

But while the child abuse system was much improved, there remained considerable difficulties about helping runaways such as those who fell victim to the Wests. "As youngsters of 16, 17 and 18 come up to adulthood they have rights as citizens to control their lives to a growing extent, and to disppear if they want to. And if they want to disppear, it is a relatively easy thing to do," he said. Douglas French, Tory MP for

Gloucester, repeated his call for a public inquiry and condemned the official report into social services departments involved in the West case by the Bridge consultancy as "woefully inade-quate". He said: "What they have done is to look at hundreds of documents but they have not spoken to people at all."

Detective Superintendent der investigation, said the police had received 24 phone calls from the public since Rosemary West's conviction on 10 murder charges. Half of these provided information about some of the nine missing women who all visited Cromwell Street at some time during the last twenty years. One of the calls related to Marilyn, a woman who lived in Gloucester in the early 1970s.

The remaining 12 callers had given police "positive lines of inquiry that they can follow", said Det Supt Bennett. Club of the damned,

Safeguards bope, pages 2,3



### Power takeover binge stemmed

and PETER RODGERS

The Government yesterday called a halt to a £14bn takeover binge in the electricity industry by referring two of the biggest bids to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, surprised the City by refusing to approve a £2.8bn bid by National Power, a privatised electricity generator, for Southern Electric, a local distribution company. He also referred a £1.95bn bid by PowerGen, another generator, for Midlands Electricity.

dustry that by stopping the bids Mr Lang could be opening the door to takeovers of Southern and Midlands by foreign firms that are known to be on the

prowl for UK utilities. However, this is the first time Mr Lang has acceded to widespread political, consumer and trade union demands for electricity bids to be scrutinised by the monopolies commission. The inquiries will take several months.

He has been accused by Labour of allowing the entire structure of the industry agreed at privatisation in 1990 to be

torn down and redi proper scrutiny.

Mr Lang and his predecessor, Michael Heseltine, have already cleared five other bids for privatised regional electricity companies, four of which have gone through. But Mr Lang said he was re-

ferring the latest two bids because he was concerned about vertical integration between generators and distributors. The National Consumer

Council welcomed the referrals, saying domestic consumers in a captive market needed to be protected. "We are worried about the potential for abuse of market power it the dids are allowed to go ahead and we want to be sure safeguards are put in place to protect the interests of | tivity in Britain and domestic

Unions expressed guarded relief but warned that Midlands and Southern must not be allowed to become vulnerable to takeovers by foreign com-

We thought

about calling it

E.T.'s Finger,

but it isn't long

and knobbly

with a glowing

light at the end.

### New spy chief is named for MI5

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

An anti-terrorist expert and career civil servant is to head MI5 as the Security Service prepares to move into traditional policing for the first time.

The appointment of David Lander – the "in house" choice – is seen as an endorsement of the Security Service's recent policy of expanding its role into

fighting organised crime and drug trafficking. Mr Lander, 48, who is considered a "moderate and a professional", will take over the £90,000-a-year job as directorgeneral of M15 from Stella Rimington next Easter.

He joined the service in 1975 and spent two years at MI6 be-fore heading MI5's anti-ter-rorist squad and later becoming a director of corporate affairs.

His selection comes at a crucial moment of change for the Security Service, with its 2,000 staff and £150m budget. The Government is to bring in leg-islation to expand its role. It is currently restricted to protecting national security and the country's economic well-being.

Mr Lander is known to have been a keen supporter of the service's drive to work against organised crime. He will have to cope with increasing pressures to make MI5 more open and accountable. Last night, he said in a statement: "I am very pleased to have been invited to take the service forward at this time, building on the achievements under my predecessors.

Mr Lander, married with two children, was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, and went on to take a PhD in CIM BOUUDI 1975, he has been responsible for monitoring Soviet spying ac-

Downing Street also yesterday announced the appointment of another civil servant David Omand, 48, to the job of heading the intelligence centre at Government Communication Full report, page 24 | Headquarters in Cheltenham.

### Howard vetoes European racism laws

SARAH HELM

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday vetoed far-reaching proposals aimed at halting the rising tide of racist violence in Europe.

In a hot-tempered meeting in Brussels, Mr Howard accused other European Union members of "lecturing" Britain over the need for greater controls to ban racist demonstrations and racist literature. The Home Secretary's lone stand was enough to block the resolution, drawn up over several months

IN BRIEF Karadzic risks trial Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic faces a war-crimes triwithin the Council of Ministers, detailing measures to counter racism and xenophobia.

Britain argued that Europe had no right to insist on uniform controls, saying the measure could mean major legislative change, and the Home Office needed more time to consider the resolution. Mr Howard stands accused by Labour of playing the "race card" at home by pushing through new restrictions on political asylum in

the run-up to the next election. In Brussels, the Home Secretary was charged by his partners with blocking a vital

initiative which many states believe would have helped improve race relations. Countries like Germany, the Netherlands and France, where racist violence by right-wing groups has been on the increase, argued strongly in favour of the measure.

The resolution, drafted by the highly secretive K4 committee of senior officials from all member states, is the result of a lengthy study into racist violence and zenophobia. The proposal was put forward to balance new measures agreed yesterday imposing tighter EU controls on refugees and immigrants. a view to harmonisation.

The study concluded that member states must co-operate and harmonise efforts to combat racist violence if the problem was to be eradicated. The recommendations included: Harmonising laws in each

member state on the confiscation of racist or inflammatory publications, videos, films and television programmes. ■ New Europe-wide intelli-

gence centres to monitor the activities of extremists and the spread of racist materials.

An examination of penalties in different member states, with

tion" which would be binding on member states. The text, which Mr Howard blocked, stated that international co-operation in this area was essential to prevent extremists in one country moving their activities to a neighbouring state where controls were less stringent.

British officials stressed last night that Britain was not against the principle of the proposals, and it is understood that Mr Howard might have accepted the resolution if it had not been legally binding.



# Slick gambit puts chess king in check

WILLIAM HARTSTON

al after allegedly yielding to the Chess Correspondent Dayton peace deal. Page 14 Soames says sorry Nicholas Soames has apologised to the Prime Minister for accusing the Princess of

Wales of "paranoia". Page 4 Right-wing attack fails A right-wing bid to snatch the chairmanship of the Tory 1922

committee has failed. Page

Today's weather Dry and mild across much of England with sunny periods. Scotland will be dull with rainy

spells. Section Two, page 33

The world of chess was thrown

into fresh turmoil after a clever gambit toppled the autocratic leader of the game's international federation. Florencio Campomanes fi-

nally met his match after 17 years as president of Fide. during which time his leadership style had astonished and often infuriated chess followers around the world, from world champions down to the hum-

blest pawn-pushers. But he found himself in an unwinnable position when more than 60 delegates at a meeting of the Fide General Assembly in France signed a statement threatening to leave Fide forthwith, unless "full democracy"

was restored. The president was left with little alternative but to resign his

The final moves began with an allegation of electoral irregularities in Moscow last December that led to Mr Campo-manes's fifth presidential term. The second move was a report on Fide finances suggesting that presidential spending had captured rather too high a proportion of their coffers. But the

him with no escape.

Since 1993, when Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short left Fide to play a world title match under the auspices of their newly formed Professional Chess Association (PCA), there has been a deep schism within the chess world, with each organisation running its own

As negotiations became

"world championships".

The main plank of Mr Campomanes's re-election platform was a deal with Kasparov that promised rapprochement and a enemy. unifying match for the title

third move was the one that left bogged down, however, Mr even his considerable political Campomanes came under increasing pressure.

He had found no sponsor for a Fide title match between Anatoly Karpov and Gata Kamsky, and he had reached no agreement with the PCA on the conditions for a unifying The Fide championship

seemed stalemated by his inaction and led to his being open-lyaccused, by both Karpov and Kamsky, of selling out to the

For once Mr Campomanes who has a degree in political scicace from Harvard, found that skills were not enough to save himself.

He resigned shortly after the Central Committee of Fide had passed a motion of no confidence in him "and his team" a king finally pushed from power by his own infuriated

Bitter endgame, page 8



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THE SERIOUS BEER WITH THE SILLY NAME.

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### CROMWELL STREET MURDERS

Search for victims: Allegations that Wests were part of a cult and of more murders in Scotland







reports have claimed bodies are buried at other sites (from left): A car park at Castie meads, in Gloucester, a mill at Berkeley, Gloucester, and a site at Kinning Park in Glasgow Police have no plans to excavate bodies

Gloucestershire police are adamant that they have no plans to excavate for further bodies in the West investigation despite some newspaper stories yesterday giving details of sites where the Wests are alleged to have buried other victims.

Douglas French, Conserva-

called for digging to be re-sumed. But Tony Butler, Chief Constable of Gloucester, said: "At present the inquiry has no substantive evidence that will support any inference that there are further victims of Fred and Rosemary West. There is certainly no evidence on which we would take further action to search in any location in Gloucestershire for the recovery of any human remains."

John Bennett, who headed the inquiry, said the police had investigated the possibility that other people had been involved with the Wests in the murders. One newspaper yesterday claimed that Frederick West said that they were part of a group called The Cult.

He said there was no evidence of any outside involvement in the killings and said that

Detective Superintendent if there had been those concerned would have been arrested and charged.

Police in Glasgow said they were ready to investigate claims that Frederick West may have butchered up to four women in the city. West moved to Glasow in the summer of 1963 with his Scots-born wife Rena. The couple lived in two flats in the Bridgeton and Kinning Park ar-eas of the city. Those who knew

West at the time have raised suspicions that he may have killed several women there.

Concern centres on an allotment West rented in Kinning Park near the river Clyde. One local man, John McLachian, who lived next to the Wests in their flat in McLellan Street and had an allotment in the same area, told the Independent yesterday that West spent many hours in a hut on the allotment working alone late into the

Mr McLachlan, 57, said: "He was there at all hours up to two or three in the morning. Some people thought he may have been using the hut to meet girlfriends. But most of the time he was alone. No one knows what he was up to but he sure as hell wasn't gardening.'

Mr McLachlan, a former bus

sations he had had with West at the allotment. "Fred left certain parts of the ground uncultivated. I remember asking him from time to time: 'Why don't you grow something there?' He would say: 'Oh, I'm saving that for special purposes.' I didn't think much of that at the

time but, recalling it all now, it

from the Glasgow had been missing since the 60s. Although there was no direct evidence linking West with any of the disappearances, detectives said they were ready to investigate any allegations and begin digging up the allotment if Gloucestershire police believed any bodies were buried there. Excavation would be difficult. Strathclyde police said yes- however, since houses and

Press backlash: Newspapers in the dock over use of cheque-book journalism

### Question over tainted evidence

HEATHER MILLS Iome Affairs Correspondent

Leading lawyers said yesterday that Rosemary West may have an "arguable" case in the Court of Appeal if she could prove evidence against her had been tainted or distorted by the promise of large sums of money from newspapers to the key prosecution witnesses.

But barristers blamed the Government for repeatedly failing to take action in the past over what has become an increasing feature of many big trials, from the Moors murders through to Jeremy Thorpe and

Yesterday Geoffrey Robert-

dal goes back to 1979, when the present Government failed to prosecute its friends at the Sunday Telegraph who promised to pay £25,000 to Peter Bessel if the evidence secured the conviction of Jeremy Thorpe."
He said journalists should be

free to interview witnesses. The harm is when there is an offer of large sums of money on the assumption that their evidence will lead to a conviction. It is calculated to buy them into a story, which may be exagger-Michael Mansfield, another

leading QC, went further, suggesting that interviews with witnesses or potential witnesses son QC, a media law expert and defence lawyer said: "This scan-trial is completed."

Yesterday Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, said ministers were now "seriously considering making cheque-book journalism illegal after the 20 examples in the West case. He admitted there had been

added: "This case has seen more buying up of witnesses' stories than we've seen for very many years. Here we've got something like 20 incidents and it goes ab-

other controversial cases, but

solutely contrary to the code of practice that was agreed by the vspaper industry themselves." Sir Nicholas said both defence and prosecution lawyers

had expressed concern over

He is meeting the Lord

Home Secretary to discuss changing the law - either by extending contempt rules or by creating a new offence under criminal law. Meanwhile lawyers for Rose-

reports on the case, and the

mary West will be scrutinising the evidence of all of the witnesses who have been paid by the media for their stories, to see if their evidence could have been embellished because of the promise of money.

Mr Mansfield said: "I think this is a worrying issue that should be explored by the Court of Appeal. Certainly there may be an arguable case for appeal if it can be proved evidence has

been altered or tainted."

injustice. Last year, the Taylor sisters were acquitted of murder, partly because appeal judges decided it would have been impossible for the jury not to have been influenced by prejudicial and inaccurate press reporting of the trial. This summer, however, the Attorney General refused to bring contempt proceedings against the

that press behaviour has led to

newspapers concerned. Richard Ferguson QC, who represents Rosemary West, was also the sisters' barrister.

Yesferday Mr Röbertson said: "The one thing that would force the Government to outlaw payment to witnesses. would be if it prompted the

### Papers told that deals were allowed Swearing replaced by REBECCA FOWLER

WILL BENNETT

Rosemary West's manner changed from confident and aggressive to cowed and silent during police interviews, one of the detectives who questioned her said yesterday.

Détective Sergeant Terence Onions said that when he and other officers arrived at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, on 24 February last year she was angry and swore at police, her

"She was very sure of herself, extremely in control and aggressive and I don't think she really believed that the police were going to take her house and gar-den apart." DS Onions told the press yesterday.

Rosemary West was on home ground during this first interviews at 25 Cromwell Street but the next day she and her husband, Frederick, were arrested and she was taken to Cheltenham Police Station.

changed as she realised that the police looking for her eldest daughter Heather, who had been missing since June 1987. could no longer be fobbed off with lies and excuses.

silence after questioning

DS Onious said "She avoided eye-to-eye contact, her head was bowed and she huddled in the corner. In the house she had been aggressive and she some-

on Tuesday and Wednesday, betive during the dozens of police interviews that followed.

Rosemary West, who was convicted of 10 murders of young women and girls by the jury at Winchester Crown Court came increasingly unco-opera-

DS Onions, 43, who has served with Gloucestershire Police for 20 years, said that eventually she exercised her right to silence and refused to answer any questions at all. He continued: "I would say that she was an uneducated

There her whole demeanour woman. If I had to come down on one side of the fence I would say that she was not very intelligent but that she did have a natural cunning." When DS Onions told Rose-

mary West that her husband had confessed to killing Heather, she shrieked "What. So you know

He said yesterday that she might have been trying to pretend that she was borrified at Heather's death or that she might have been genuinely ap-palled that West had confessed to the murder. She had some tears but

whether they were real tears or crocodile tears I don't know. She may have been aghast but it may have been something she

was portraying. DS Onions said he had no plans to interview Rosemary West again. He explained "If she maintains the stance she has got at the moment there is little point in going to see her."

make such payments. The investigation into cheque book journalism, following the payment of witnesses in the Rosemary West trial, was undermined last night by claims that Lord McGregor, the former head of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). gave guidance to tabloid newspapers that the industry's code of conduct was sufficiently ambiguous to allow such deals.

More than 20 witnesses in the West trial had lucrative contracts with newspapers for exclusive rights for their stories. prompting concern that their testimonies would not be reliable. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has called for a report into the payments, and is to raise the matter with the Home

But Lord McGregor, who was chairman of the PCC when Frederick and Rosemary West were arrested, allegedly told the Daily Sur newspaper, which was anxious to ensure it did not breach the voluntary code of conduct followed by the newsclear enough for newspapers to

In clause nine of the PCC's voluntary code of practice it says: "Payments or offers of payment ... should not be made directly, or through agents, to witnesses or potential witnesses in current or criminal proceedings, or to people engaged in crime or to their associates ... except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest."

The Daily Star paid £3,000 to Anne Marie Davies, Rosemary West's stepdaughter, in a deal made before she gave evidence. She told of being abused and raped by her parents when she was 8-years-old.

"We went out of our way to make sure we were not breaching either the letter of the spirit of the code," Phil Walker. editor of the Daily Star, is reported as saying in The Econ-

The PCC, under its current regime, announced on Wednesday that it would review the issue of payments to witnesses. Lord McGregor refused to comment last night on whether paper industry, that it was un- he had offered guidance to



Anne Marie Davies: Made deal with newspaper

newspaper editors, "I have no desire to embarrass or make things difficult for my successor by saying anything,"

A separate review will be undertaken by Lord Mackay, together with Sir Nicholas Lyell. the Attorney-General, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to look at possible changes to the Contempt of Court Act 1981. It was last re-viewed in 1966 following the Moors murder case, when two witnesses were offered money by a newspaper.

The Sun newspaper, which made a £20,000 deal with Caroline Owens, a former lodger at the Wests' home in Gloucester. defended the payment yesterday. Editor Stuart Higgins said moves to curb cheque book journalism were "crazy" and

### It would not be the first time Court of Appeal to quash the the Court of Appeal has ruled conviction of Mrs West." Press watchdog may act over witness deals

MARIANNE MACDONALD

Newspapers faced growing condemnation yesterday over payments made to potential witnesses in the Rosemary West

During the trial it emerged that Janet Leach, Frederick West's "appropriate person" who sat in on police interviews with West, initially lied to the court about having accepted an offer of £100,000 from the Daihy Mirror, for her story. She denied embellishing her evidence to make it more marketable.

Other paid witnesses included West's daughter Anne Marie Davies; Caroline Owens, the victim of an indecent assault by the Wests in 1973, who was paid £9.500 by the Sun and is due to get another £10,500; and Kathryn Halliday, an ex-lover of Rosemary West, who got £9,000 from the Sunday Mirror.

The Press Complaints Commission will discuss whether to strengthen its voluntary code on Wednesday but despite the outcry it has had no complaints about the issue.

or potential witnesses in criminal proceedings unless it is in the public interest. That clause has never been tested and a problem for the commission is that there is no case law. It is also difficult to define when a person becomes a

"potential witness". Nor is it clear how the PCC ould know when someone had breached the clause until after the court case. Its brief is to act on complaints, and few wit-

code of practice, drawn up in

agreement with newspaper ed-

itors, states that payment or of-

fers of payment should not be

made by the press to witnesses

nesses would complain if paid. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, has commissioned a report into the incidence of cheque-book journalism even though the Official Solicitor, who is under his jurisdiction, recently sold the access to Fred West's archive for a biography

to benefit his children. Lord Mackay's office said: "He will discuss what further steps are needed with colleagues — the Home Secretary. out the issue.

the Attorney-General and oth-Clause nine of the PCC's er interested ministers."

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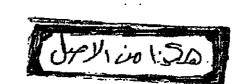
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# Safeguards offer hope of fewer blunders

**Public Policy Editor** 

"Can you guarantee that something on this scale won't happen again?" Michael Honey, the Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council was asked, after Roscmary West had been sentenced.

"You can never guarantee anything in this life," was his instant response. But in the trail of clues, hints and missed opportunities stretching back through more

health workers and others are adamant that there were moments when things would clearly have a different result now.

The first moment that sticks out is the West's sexual assault on Caroline Owens, their for-mer nanny, in 1972. The Wests were fined £50 each. The police made no reference to social services. And social services took no action, despite the case be-

ing covered by local newspapers. Today, they would have become involved. Police would pass the information on, and an investigation to see if the chilthan 25 years, social services,

police, health, social services. education and the NSPCC all sharing whatever information they had at a case conference.

By then, however, Fred West had already killed people outside his family at least twice and had disposed of Rena, his first wife. Charmaine, the first of the murders for which Rosemary was convicted, was also dead.

Today, contacts between health and social services would

partments with children suf- a programme to introduce a fering from thrush - frequent-ly a sexually transmitted disease common NHS number for each patient, which should greatly imand one with gonorrhoea.

prove record linkage. Education officials also failed Anne Marie was taken in on her ninth birthday in 1973 with to report Fred's 1987 statebruising and scratches on her ment that he had "laid out" a breast and when 15 she was in child - an event that today hospital with an ectopic pregwould be more likely to be nancy. But all the events were passed on to social services. But for all that, John Rans recorded in different files and

no connection was made. ford, secretary of the Nowadays, the level of sus-Association of Directors of Sopicion among medical and nursing staff is higher. More cial Services, said yesterday: "No-one with any sense could also be different. The West hospitals have computerised give an absolute guarantee family appeared at casualty derecords, and nationally there is it couldn't happen again. give an absolute guarantee that

"But we can, with a degree of certainty, say that given the way child protection procedures have moved on in the past 25 years, it is extremely unlikely that a situation like that would build up and the signs not

be picked up. Child protection, however, still depended crucially on in-formation being exchanged – consistently identified as a flaw in the system by more than 40 child abuse inquiries since the death of Maria Colwell in 1973 - and on the individual judge-ments made by health, social

services, police and other pro-

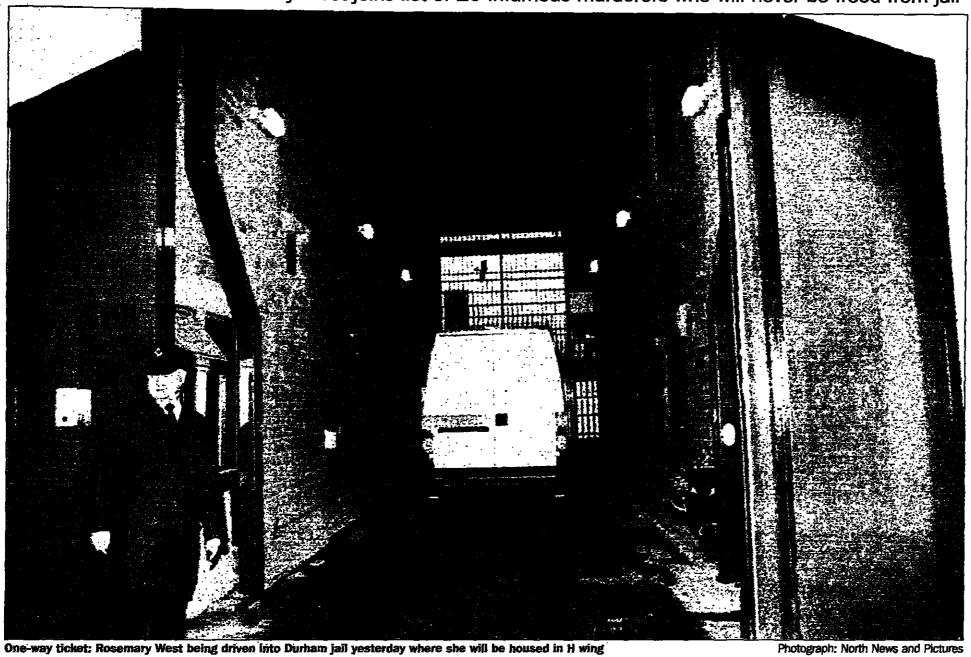
It was also clear from the trial that many adults in and around Cromwell Street knew at least some of what was happening, but did not pass the information on. The child abuse inquiry which finally led to the murders being uncovered was triggered by a child telling a police officer that one of the West's children was being

Child protection, however, cannot protect the teenage run-

The charitable National Missing Persons Helpline now holds data on 14,000 missing people - although it still lacks full national coverage – and it is starting to use pattern matching of where people disappear, which it says may help spot serial killers earlier.

Mary Asprey, a co-founder of the charity, said yesterday: "We would all be very silly to think it couldn't happen again. But we hope not to the same extent. We would start to see a pattern

### Killers' sentences: Rosemary West joins list of 20 infamous murderers who will never be freed from jail



### Girls in care paid visits to Wests' home

#### **NICHOLAS TIMMINS**

At least seven teenage girls living in care at Jordan's Brook House in Gloucester made sccret visits to Fred and Rosemary West's house at 25 Cromwell Street, police and social services have established.

But there may have been more, Deryk Mead, director of Gloucestershire social services, admitted yesterday after court evidence that Fred and Rosemary West may have "targeted" the home, picking up vunerable girls. At times a "scruffy van" was seen around the gates of the home. But we are clear that nobody knew at the time," Mr Mead said.

"Miss A", who gave evidence at Rosemary's trial, lived at the home and became a victim of the Wests' sexual obsession in 1977, and Alison Chambers, a persistent absconder from the home, was murdered and buried in the garden of Cromwell Street. At least one other resident is known to have been sexually abused by the Wests.

Jordan's Brook opened in 1970 as a 24-bed Home Officerun approved school for 13 to 17 year old girls, taking young offenders from an area stretching from Cornwall, through parts of Wales to Manchester. In 1973 it became a Gloucestershire run community home. but with a similarly wide catchment area until 1981.

A check on the individual Street - and they did not.

files of more than 1,000 girls who stayed at Jordan's Brook between 1970 and 1994, and on all the home's records and log books, shows no record of any link between girls at the home and either of the Wests, or with their homes in Midland Road and Cromwell Street. Nor is there any record of links with other residents of the

Wests' homes. But from follow-up interviews, Gloucestershire now believes that seven girls during that time were probably involved with the West household in some way, four of whom say they were not abused in any

But Mr Mead said social services could not be sure that was the limit. Some former residents were saving they did not have any contact with the Wests when they may have done. And claims that the Wests targeted the home "might possibly be true", he said. "But there is nothing in the records to show that, and there is nothing to say that the van that was seen was Fred's. There is no evidence, but there is nothing to say it never happened."

Mr Mead says that all the evidence from the council's own inquiries and the trial was that the girls were "intimidated into keeping quiet". They were given a warm welcome. But they were told not tell the authorities they had visited Cromwell

### Club of the damned recruits its newest life member

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

The doors of Durham jail yesterday closed on Rosemary West at the start of a sentence that will only end with her

Although it has officially to be confirmed by both Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary, she is chiatrists and will be placed on certain to join the infamous round the clock watch to preranks of the 20 inmates for whom a life sentence really

does mean life. She joins Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer - and the only other women on the natural life list – and other serial killers such as Dennis Nilsen, who murdered up to 16 young men at his from murder and arson to

with no prospect of release, pre-sent special problems for the Prison Service - increased risk of suicide, behavioural problems, even escape - she will be allocated a specially trained personal officer to monitor and supervise her detention.

She will be interviewed and assessed by doctors and psyvent any suicide attempt - or any attack from other inmates on Durham's secure H wing. The special wing housed within the predominantly male Vic-torian jail, perched on the city limits, currently holds 44 women. Their offences range armed robbery and serious vi-

Like those prisoners who, bished the once notorious H wing housed the IRA terrorists Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer until they were transferred to Northern Ireland. If staff perceive any threat to Mrs West, or if she herself

feels under threat, she could be

segregated for her own protec-Her normal day in the unit. the only one in the country, should involve about 12 hours outside her cell, taking part in education and "purposeful" activities, including work in the jail's textile workshop, or in the

unit's activity centre making pottery or soft toys. She will be allowed two, twohour visits a month - building up to four visits in return for

pected that for some prisoners life meant literally life, it was only officially confirmed last year following a House of Lords ruling. It forced the Home Secretary to lift the secrecy which allowed him the final say over when those serving compulsory life sentences for murder should be released. Last December about 2,500 mandatory lifers learnt for the first time exactly how long they would spend in jail - and were given the chance to make represen-

tations about the sentence. About 20 learnt they will never be released. Earlier this vear, one of them, Jeremy Bamber, jailed for the murder of his family, lost a test case in which he argued a whole life sentence

### Counselling for anguished jurors

PETER VICTOR and WILL BENNETT

The image of Rose West in the dock, the details of her appalling crimes and the suffering of her victims will haunt jurors, survivors and relatives of the dead for years to come.

A wide range of professional counsellors have been drafted in to offer advice and comfort to the dozens of people connected with the case. Normally, jurors are encouraged to contact court ush-

ers if they are distressed by the evidence in a trial but the arrangements in the Wests' case go much further than this. Court officials decided to provide extra counselling last week. Two welfare officers from

the Lord Chancellor's department have been brought in to help anguished jurors deal with their distress or anxiety.

One of the officers is a qualified counsellor and both are trained in dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. Jurors will be told that they can contact these two officers, get in touch with their family doctors or telephone a freephone health line which give details of

counselling services. In addition, a specialist team from Gloucester Victims' Sup-



In the witness box: Artist's impression of Rosemary West giving evidence in court

port is providing a confidential service for others affected by the Cromwell Street inquiry, inchiding "survivors" and victims' relatives.

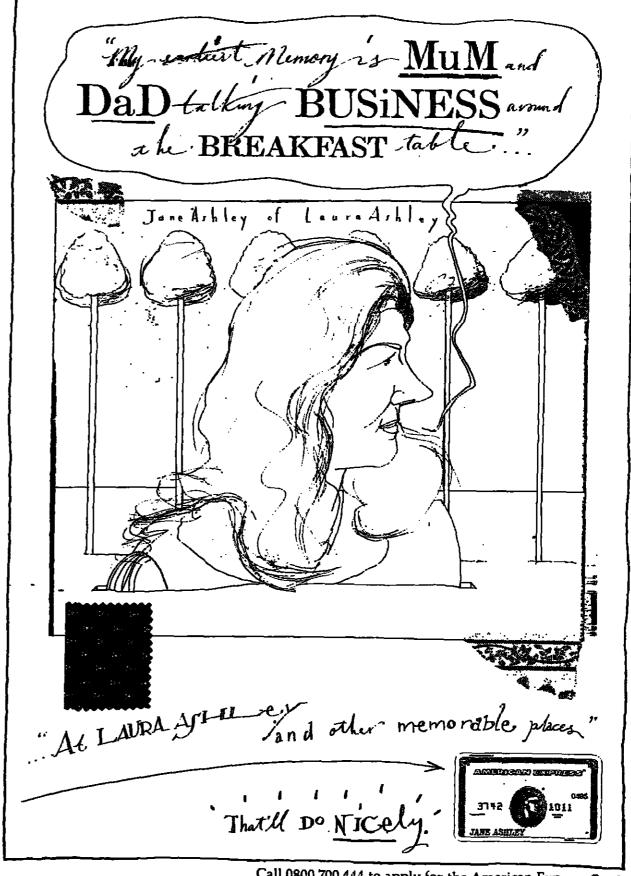
A nine-member team was trained to deal with the case, a spokesman for the organisation said. He said that training sessions were given by specialists whose expertise covered death through violent crime, adding: "There is nothing like the West

Funding was provided by Gloucestershire County Council and the police, which asked the victims' support group to provide a dedicated service for all those affected by the reve-

lations thrown up by the case. The Gloucester group, which had a co-ordinating role working with police, social services and other victims' agencies, has received numerous calls for advice, the spokesman said. "We case, it is without precedent." have had a lot of distress at all they want to be listened to."

levels. We have talked to peo-ple from all walks of life, who are affected differently. But all have been touched in some way by the horror of the situation. Among the callers were rel-

atives of missing persons, he said. "It gives them a chance to talk about it, to come to some understanding of what is hap-pening and what is involved. We help where we can ... This is really about people being burt and



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Libel trial: 'Newspaper allegations about holiday at homosexual love-nest were part of campaign aimed at forcing resignation

### Malicious sister tried to destroy MP, court told

IAN MacKINNON

The embittered sister of a Tory MP mounted a campaign to force his resignation by accusing him of having a homosexual affair, a jury was told yesterday.

In a series of telephone calls and taped conversations. Lynne Garling, sister of David Ashby, the MP for Leicestershire North West, passed information seeking to expose him in an article in the Sunday Times, the High Court was told.

However, in telephone conversations with Mr Ashby's wife, Silvana, from whom he was separated when the article appeared last year. Mrs Garling swore that she had not been the source of the information.

Geoffrey Shaw QC, for Mr Ashby, told the court that just lished on 16 January, his client

had told a Sunday Times reporter that his sister was "a vicious, sick woman motivated solely by malice" and was out to destroy him.

Mr Ashby. 55, who has been an MP since 1983, is suing the newspaper for libel over the article which he says makes him out to be a "homosexual, liar and hypocrite".

Times Newspapers and Andrew Neil, the former editor of the Sunday Times. deny libel, saving that Mr Ashby was conducting a homosexual relationship with Dr Carian Kilduff.

The article said Mr Ashby

and an unnamed man spent a night in November, 1993 at a hotel in Goa which was a "love nest that asked few questions about its guests". Mr Shaw said it was true that his client had spent a night at the hotel, but he had been alone and had not spent it with a male friend.

The information about the holiday had come from Mrs Garling and her husband, Victor, in a series of anonymous telephone calls, said Mr Shaw.

The newspaper had earlier published another story, not the subject of the action, also on the basis of an anonymous tip, say-ing Mrs Ashby, 53, had been fu-rious because the couple had split up when he left her for another man. Mrs Ashby confronted Mrs Garling asking if she had provided the material in the story, which she denied.

However, in the wake of the publication of the article on 9 January, other newspapers pub-lished allegations that Mr Ashby had shared a double bed at a French chateau with Dr Kilduff. Mr Shaw told the jury that when questioned by journalists on the doorstep of his flat in south-west London, Mr Ashby denied that he was having a ho-

that he had shared hotel rooms with men to save money.

However, a second story appeared in the Sunday Times when Mrs Garling again contacted the newspaper to tell of the holiday in Goa. The reporter tried to reassure Mrs Garling that she was doing the right thing - saying that if Mr Ash-by, who stressed the importance of family values in the 1992 general election, had been openly homosexual the paper would not have been interested.

The reporter told Mrs Garling that it would force her brother's resignation from Par-liament within two weeks, Mr Shaw said. "From that passage you learn that the joint object of Lynne Garling and the Sunday Times was to force, for their own reasons, David Ashby to resign as an MP."



The hearing continues today. Legal battle: David Ashby and his daughter Alexandra outside the High Court yesterday Photograph: Edward Webb

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PHILIPS

### PM rebukes minister for jibe at Diana

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Nicholas Soames personally apologised to the Prime Minister before being slapped down by John Major in the Commons in accusing the Princess of Wales of being in the "ad-

vanced stages of paranoia". for the Armed Forces, was not threatened with the sack, but it was made clear at Westminster by senior Conservative sources that his prospects for promotion had been damaged because of

an alleged "lack of judgement". Mr Major was prepared to tolerate his initial outburst against the Princess, but was irritated when Mr Soames continued to attack her publicly the next day. Downing Street had said he was free to speak per-Minister answered Labour calls that he believed a divorce or him to sack th saying bluntly: "I do not expect

any more comments." Last night, Mr Soames's min-isterial job was not at risk, but he has been left in no doubt that his role as a courtier to Buckingham Palace could not be allowed to override his ministerial

duties again. The Prime Minister's Office refused to elaborate on his future, but the Independent has learnt that Mr Soames went to see Mr Major on Wednesday to

remarks, and he made it clear that he would not be making any more comments on behalf of the Prince of Wales.

Mr Soames apologised for a prominent report claiming that he had asked the Prime Minisyesterday for going over the top ter to intervene at the Palace by asking the Queen to seek a divorce between Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales. He Mr Soames, Minister of State told friends: "It's absolutely untrue and I am saying no

A former equerry to the Prince, Mr Soames, a grandson of Winston Churchill, was upset at the criticism his remarks in support of Prince Charles encountered after his appearance on the Newsnight programme on BBC2 on Monday, immediately after the screening of the interview with the Princess of Wales on Panorama on BBC1.

As the criticism mounted, Mr sonally, but yesterday the Prime Soames told the Independent concerned. As the Palace offered an olive branch of talks with the Princess. Mr Soames said the Princess should be given a role as an ambassador for Britain abroad, but she could

not act "as a freelance". The question of a role for the Princess and the divorce are understood to have been discussed when Mr Major had an audience with the Queen on Tuesday. He felt Mr Soames had gone too far, and decided apologise for the row over his to make that clear yesterday.

### French ro-ro ferries may face UK safety ban

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

French roll-on roll-off ferries may be banned from British ports because France is refusing to agree to higher safety standards drawn up in the wake of the Estonia disaster.

The negotiations within the International Maritime Organisation, which is meeting in London throughout this week, are deadlocked over the refusal of the French to agree to the im-position of new safety designs on ferry operators.

The British, along with a group of six north European nations - Denmark, Finland, Ger-many. Ireland, Norway, and Sweden - want to ensure there that disasters like the Estonia and the Herald of Free Enterprise are not repeated by redesigning ferries which can survive with up to 50cms of water in the car deck. This would be in addition to the existing Safety of Life at Sea 90 (Solas 90) standards imposed following the *Hemld* disaster in 1987, in which nearly 200 people died.

But, according to a source close to the British negotiating team, the French "are taking a very negative attitude towards improved standards". The French are worried that any new international standards would also be imposed on ferries operating in the Mediterranean where they claim the sea is calmer. The new standards were drawn up by an IMO commit-

tee of experts following the sinking of the Estonia a year ago, in which 900 people lost their lives.

The meeting is continuing un-til next Wednesday when there will be a signing ceremony and Bill O'Neill, the IMO's Canadian secretary-general, said that he wants full international agreement and not just a partial deal.

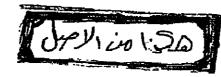
Currently, the negotiations are deadlocked because the British want the new standards imposed on all ferries operating to and from the United Kingdom, while the French

want their ferries exempt.

If the French continue to refuse to agree to the new standard, ministers have intimated that French ferries could be banned. A compromise, which the British government is trying to avoid, might involve allowing the European Commission to set new safety rules.

The current Solas 90 standard merely says that ships should be able to survive a certain level of damage following a collision in seas with waves of a maximum height of 1.5 metres.

The problem with roll-on roll-off ferries is that once water gets on to the car deck, which stretches throughout the whole length of the boat, it starts swilling about, causing the ship to capsize. In the Herald disaster, it was estimated that the ship keeled on to its side within 90 seconds of water getting on to the car deck.



Student grants: Demonstration against 'final straw' of new savings as claims of hardship on campus intensify

### Thousands march against cash cuts

VICKY WARD

Ten thousand students marched through London yesterday to demonstrate against Government plans to cut student grants by a further 10 per cent next

The National Union of Students, which organised the demonstration, said students were already suffering from financial hardship as a result of a 10 per cent cut in grants this year. And "the final straw," according to a spokesman, was the Government's declared intention to privatise student loans. The NUS President, Jim

Murphy, claims student hardship is reaching intolerable levels. "Recent research by the NUS found that one in three students missed meals because of hardship, and university medical centres are now acknowledging real problems with stress-related illnesses among Students.

Student loans were introduced five years ago at the same time as the student grant, which went towards meeting living costs, was frozen in value. In the 1993 Budget, the Government announced its intention of accelerating the switch from grants to loans by cutting the value of the student grant by up to ten per cent a year for three years and increasing the amount available from student loans by an equivalent amount.

The DFEE said yesterday that in the current academic year, grants were cut by between 5.3 per cent and 8.6 per cent. depending on individual circumstances. The grant is currently £1.885 a year; £2.340 in London.

Financial stress among students is being cited by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals as a possible reason for increasing student drop-out rates. According to the most recent figures available 40,000 students dropped out in 1992/93 - 25 per cent up on

the previous year. The stress factor did seem to be a major inspiration for the demonstrators. According to Rhinana, a 19-year-old under-

graduate from Sheffield, she was not marching on her own behalf. but for her friends. She said the stress of having a family, as many mature students did, combined with working late nights in pubs to find the money to pay essential living costs, inflicted such stress that those students often had to drop out.

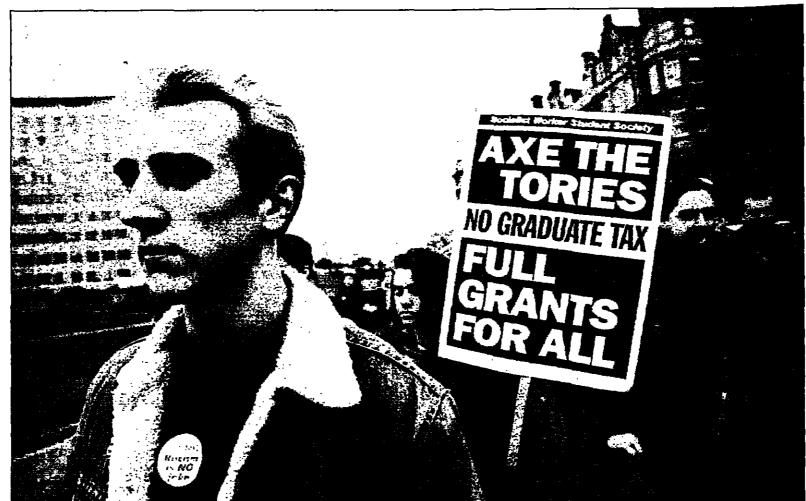
A woman student from Doncaster University, who did not wish to be named, said that IT classes there had dropped to only five from about 20 because of course costs. In Doncasterstudents were particularly ag-grieved by recent cuts in transport allowance. Doncaster's three campuses, she said, were at different ends of the city and most students used the bus, which cost them £1 to move from site to site.

The purchase of textbooks, according to Jo, 19, from Leicester, and Marie, 20, from Durham, both studying combined science, was a major expense that had overlooked. Jo said she bad to buy four books a term at a cost of £20 each. Her total annual grant is £1,000. Both said they had to work during the holidays. which did not interfere with their studies too much at present, but they were worried about what would happen when it came to their finals. Three of Jo's friends dropped out last year because they could no longer afford it.

Marie said that after her college bills had been paid she had been left with £50 to live on. She does not get a grant, so her parents have to make up the rest, which is a strain on them.

Steve Okelo, 30, an overseas student from Kenya, studying at Sunderland, was marching because he said his overseas grant fell short of his living requirements by £30 a week. This, he said, was partly to do with exchange rates and banking arrangements in his own country that the Government had not taken into account.

There were signs, perhaps that not all of the protesters were as hard-up as they claimed. When one of them thought no-one was looking, he whipped out his mobile phone.



Can't pay, won't pay: Student Ben Hutchins takes part in the protest march in Westminster yesterday

### £142m owed to loans firm may not be repaid

**WENDY BERLINER** 

About £142m borrowed so far from the Student Loans Company may never be recovered, according to company estimates in a report published yesterday by the National Audit Office.

Most of the money - some £127m - may not be paid back because the graduates never earn enough to reach the threshold to start repayments, or they die before they do.

Some £15m will be owed by graduates who do not make repayments and are never caught. More than 11,000 students owing £1.8m are already in default. The company, is planning to increase staffing in its collections department from 83 to 150 within the next five years in or-

der to chase defaulters. The Student Loans Compahas outstanding loans of £1.8bn, loaned since the scheme was first introduced five years

ago to top up grants for student living costs. The average student loan in the current academic year is £1,040.

Banks and other financial institutions are to be invited to bid to run a privatised student loan scheme under a government Bill

published last week.

Ministers believe the costs of the existing loans scheme are growing too high and that alternatives have to be found.

When the Student Loans Com-

pany was originally set up the big banks refused to take part. mainly because they would not make any money out of it. They remain sceptical about this latest overture from the Govern-

The proportion of students taking out loans has grown rapidly since the Government first froze the value of the student maintenance grant and then began to reduce it. In the 1994-95 academic year

55 per cent of eligible students took out 517,000 loans, compared with 28 per cent of eligible students taking out 180,000 loans five years earlier. The National Audit Office

decided to examine the company after thousands of students suffered delays in receiving their loans in autumn last year. ■ The Operations of the Student Loans Company Limited, by the National Audit Office, is available from HMSO; £8.95.

#### IN BRIEF

Papal plea 'may sway divorce vote'

Irish government sources have claimed the eleventh-hour intervention by the Pope may have hardened the "Yes" vote in today's divorce referendum.

They claim he has antagonised religious minorities and may provoke a higher turnout by pro-divorce voters. On Wednesday, the Pope urged Irish pilgrims to pray even more intensely for the welfare of marriage, and emphasised "the unbreakable unity" between husband and wife. Section Two, page 2

#### Heathrow crash

More than 350 passengers and crew escaped unhurt when when two jets collided on the ground at Heathrow. An airport spokesman said the accident occurred as a Gulf Air Airbus A340 and a British Airways 757 were manoeuvring on a taxiway before take-off.

#### Churchill exhibition

The Churchill papers are on display to the public for the first time since their controversial £12.5m purchase with National Lottery money in April. The four-day show at Churchill College, Cambridge, is a taster for a national tour next year.

#### Stroke test

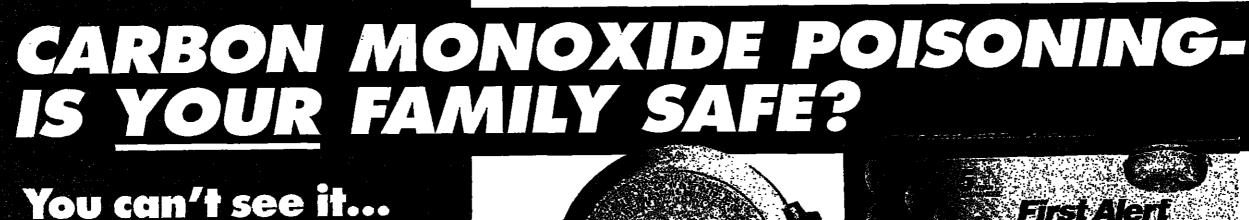
A simple blood test could predict an individual's risk of stroke, according to a study of more than 5.600 men aged 40 to 59 by British and Norwegian scientists, the Lancer reports.

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> well be dead." Mr C.P.O. (Bucks)



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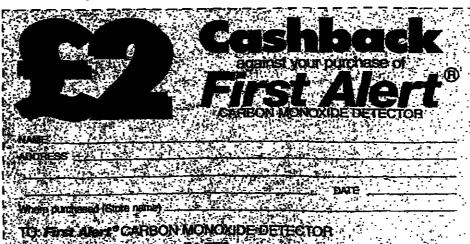
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# Committee calls for end to 'lottery' of NHS care

**GLENDA COOPER** 

MPs yesterday called on the Department of Health to end the "care lottery", by setting up a national long-term care charter which makes clear the service people can expect in

Their call came the day after the Health Service Ombudsman criticised North Worcestershire Health Authority for failing to provide NHS care by discharging a 55-year-old stroke victim into a private nursing home and saddling his wife with a bill for thousands of pounds.

The charter, outlined by the Commons' Health Select Committee report, should include a named list of services and a "minimum" list of specialist equipment, home aids, and time scales for assessment.

Eligibility criteria for these should also be "needs-led" rather than "resource-led", with the committee saying it "failed to see" why the NHS should not be responsible for funding all the care of people in nursing homes who required special health care support.

During the mid to late 1980s. there was a huge increase in private residential and nursing home places for elderly people, with the number of places in private-sector residential accommodation rising from 44,000 in 1982 to 164,000 in 1994. Over the same period, the number of nursing home places rose from 18,000 to nearly 150,000. During the same period, the number of local authority residential home places fell by nearly 50,000 - from 116,000 to 69,000.

The MPs, from all parties, had earlier expressed concerns on "significant geographical variations" and called for national eligibility criteria to be set. Subsequently the Department of Health announced that it would monitor arrangements.

The committee called on the department to publish the outcome of individual health authorities' policies and criteria, and to outline the action it will take against those who depart

from the national framework. It added that the charter should specify that NHS-funded patients entering a nursing home should have the right, subject to necessary clinical or financial conditions, to choose their own nursing home.

The department should also seek evidence from local authorities to discover the extent of the problem concerning "preserved rights" residents. In April 1993, the Govern-

ment transferred the financial responsibility for all new occupants from the DSS to local authorities, but left funding of existing residents with the DSS. Where homes' charges now

exceed Income Support, relatives have had to make up the shortfall, with local authorities not allowed to intervene until the old person faces eviction. We recommend that the Department conduct a review of the existing arrangements," it said. "No elderly resident should face eviction in the

The Royal College of Nurs-ing welcomed the MPs' call for national standards and backed the proposal for a charter, but said it wanted to see radical re-

form of funding arrangements. General Secretary Christine Hancock said: "I urge the Government to act now to end the care lottery. Nursing must be an NHS responsibility. We need a strong national framework and clear national standards to keep faith with a generation of older people who believed that the NHS would take care of their health needs in later life."

Harry Cayton, executive director of the Alzheimer's Sociapplauded recommendations. "If they are acted on by the Government they will do much to improve the present uneven and unfair

provision of NHS long-term

care," he said. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said the report's rhetoric must be translated into action: "That means extra resources," said Cllr Rita Stringfellow, chair of its social services committee.

### MP urges law to end 'Jackal' fraud loophole

**COLIN BROWN** Chief Political Correspondent

A Labour MP is calling on the Government to outlaw impersonation after he obtained a birth certificate under false pretences, like a scene from the Day of the Jackal.

Jeff Rooker, the Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, is pressing the Prime Minister to fulfil a pledge to close the loop-hole in the law, which was promised in a Government

White Paper five years. He believes organised gangs are using birth certificates as a fraudulent means of obtaining



Jeff Rooker: Concerned at the implications for crime

a wide range of benefits, including a full British passport. Mr Rooker's involvement follows the discovery of a fraud involving two of his constituents, whose twins died at birth 30 years ago in a Midlands hospital. Three decades after their deaths, a woman claiming the identity of one of the twins was caught in a social security crackdown.

Officers checked their records on thousands of people applying for passports and discovered that a death certificate had been issued in the case of

the woman. She confessed that she was a Nigerian national, ising a birth certificate which had been legally obtained.

Mr Rooker said the case highlighted the need for legislation to make it an offence to impersonate people in order to obtain a birth certificate. To illustrate the ease with which birth certificates can be obtained, Mr Rooker got a copy of the birth certificate for the other twin.

In May, the Prime Minister assured Mr Rooker that the need for the legislation "has not been lost between the Home Office and the Department of Health".

"It remains the Government's intention to introduce the necessary legislation to implement the remaining White Paper proposals, when Parliamentary time permits, irre-spective of the outcome of the consultation on identity cards. We are seeking to make other important reforms, however, and we have not yet been able to find a place in the legislative programme for what would be a lengthy Registration Bill,"

John Major said.
The failure of the Government to include a Registration Bill in the Queen's Speech for the new session of Parliament was condemned by Mr Rooker. In the Day of the Jackal, a hired sassin assumes a new identity by obtaining a birth certificate of a dead person. Mr Rooker said organised crime could

easily exploit this loophole.
"The Government says it is concerned about organised fraud. One of the keys to that is the ease of access to the birth certificates. They said in 1990 they were going to close [the loophole] down. They have done nothing. That leads me to conclude that their pretence that the Immigration and Asylum Bill is to do with a social security crackdown is so much hype." Mr Rooker said.



Battle weary: Cyril Hudson says the strain of fighting his mother's case contributed to losing his job Photograph: Joel Chant

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### Mother who was 'pawn in a game'

Cyril Hudson's story is, he be-lieves, "sadly all too common". A heart attack left his mother unable to cope in her flat nearly four years ago, and, with the help of social workers, her son chose a home from a list they gave him, writes Glenda

Cooper. Mr Hudson and his sister thought that their mother still had significant funds from the sale of her house some years before. But in fact the rent had swallowed most of it up.
"I applied to the DSS for in-

come support and they came up with the maximum available which was £240 a week, but I had to make up the deficit which added up to £5,000 a year," he said.

Mr Hudson's mother Violet is one of the elderly still fund-ed by the DSS because she was in a home before April 1993.

Income support has not risen at the same level as her home fees, leaving her son to make up the shortfall. The select committee wants the Department of Health to question health authorities on how widespread the problem is. Mr Hudson struggled to make up the deficit from his earnings and his own savings.

CASE STUDY But then he was made redunto CIT

dant from his job. "I was told by social services that until my mother was actually evicted by the home they couldn't step in and do anything." he said. "Once she was out, then they would be re-sponsible, put her back in and make up the difference.

So a running dispute started between Mr Hudson and the owner of Mrs Hudson's home. Mr Hudson refused to pay more than the minimum £240 The owner had the choice to ac-

cept that or evict her.

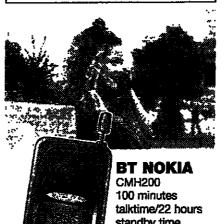
"It's been very traumatic. The strain was contributory to losing my job," he said. "Tve finished up in front of a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist."

Matters came to a head on 31 October when the owner finalserved notice to quit. It was finally resolved by moving Mrs Hudson to a smaller room which costs less, making her what her son calls "a captive prisoner". "There's a poker game going on between the Government and the nursing homes and old people are the



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Right to Work: Radical scheme to save £5bn a year

### Workfare plan to cut jobless

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** Public Policy Editor

A Right to Work Bill, aimed at ending involuntary unemployment over three years, was launched yesterday by the crossparty alliance of Frank Field. Labour chairman of the Commons Social Security Commit-tee, and Sir Ralph Howell, the Conservative MP for North Norfolk, a long-time advocate

of "workfare" style schemes. The package would reduce Government spending by £5bn a year, they claimed, while putting the jobless to work with a series of incentives linked to draconian benefit cuts for those who chose not to take part.

Under the scheme, both public and private employers would be paid £60 a week for adults and £30 a week for 16- and 17year-olds - to take on the jobless, provided they matched those sums to produce wages of £120 and £60 a week.

Those not employed under such a Workstart scheme would resort for at least some of the

. . X

he offered employment under a new Right to Work, undertaking caring, environmental or minor infrastructure schemes in place of their benefits. They would be paid £3 for every hour they made themselves

But the payments would replace existing unemployment and Income Support benefits and those choosing not to join the Right to Work scheme would be entitled merely to £30 a week to live on, a quarter of the Right to Work payment. with no entitlement to housing benefit or any other benefits.

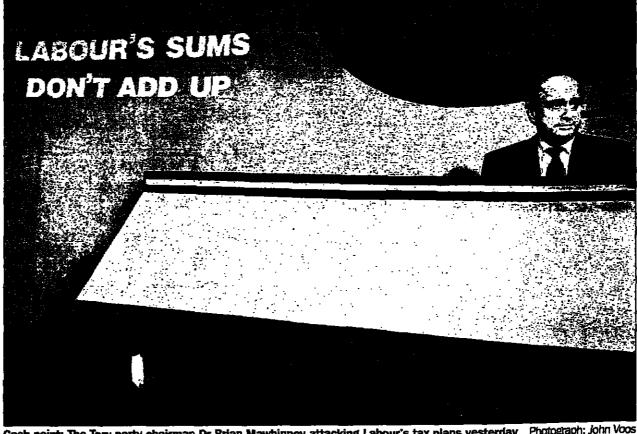
The Workstart scheme would create an additional 1 million jobs, Mr Field and Sir Ralph claim, the subsidy being halved in the second year. The Right to Work programme, which would be phased in over three years, starting with the under-25s, then those aged up to 30, and then those nearest to retirement age, would see the state become the permanent "employer of last

2,250,000 unemployed who failed to find unsubsidised jobs. Both Mr Field and Sir Ralph

accepted their Bill was far from perfect. Provisions to stop employers dismissing existing workers to take on subsidised ones are outlined only briefly. for example, and their dramatic claim of a £5bn saving makes no allowance for the capital and revenue needed to provide tools and supplies for environmental and infrastructure projects.

But Mr Field said its aim was to "attack the mindset which stems from the Treasury, that there is no alternative to their approach for running the economy". All other attempts to combat long-term unemploy-ment had failed, he said, and a new national strategy was "long overdue"

The Bill is built around the ideas of Denis Snower, Professor of Economics at Birkbeck College, London, who argues it would lead to economic growth, at a fraction of the cost of unemployment benefits.



Cash point: The Tory party chairman Dr Brian Mawhinney attacking Labour's tax plans yesterday Photograph: John Voos

### Fox beats off the right-wing challenge at 1922 committee

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

A right-wing offensive to snatch the chairmanship of the influential 1922 Tory backbench committee came to nought last night as the John Major loyalist Sir Marcus Fox beat off a challenge from the Dartford MP Bob Dunn.

Mr Dunn's fellow rightwinger John Townend, a 1922 executive member and chairman of the backbench finance committee, likewise failed in a bid to be elected as one of the committee's two vice-chairmen. While Sir Marcus is broadly

on the "establishment" right. Mr Dunn, a former minister, is a hardline Thatcherite No Turning Back Group member. His "Get Dunn In" campaign was based on the argument that he would provide continuity on the committee at a time when nine of the party grandees among the 18-strong executive are planning to retire from Parlia-

MP wins

chance

to alter

Parliamentary Correspondent

playing havoc with timetables is unlikely to appeal to many.

not too controversial.

their way to school.

Second in the ballot was

Alan Meale, Labour MP for

Mansfield. He said he will study

material sent to him by differ-

ent groups before making up his mind on his proposed Bill.

Comet, John Lewis, Miller

Order and from all leading

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STEPHEN GOODWIN

ment at the next election. However, the overall upshot of last night's annual elections leaves the political complexion of the executive unchanged, with MPs from the right-wing 92 Group still accounting for nearly twothirds of the officers and mem-

The only change to the executive was the exit of Sir Donald Thompson, and that was only by default because he failed to get his nomination papers in on time. He is replaced by the former armed services

minister Sir Archie Hamilton. Prominent members of the 92 Group, led by the chairman Sir

George Gardiner MP, had went too far when he warned pressed unsuccessfully for a that a Euro-rebellion could slate of fresher candidates who would be likely to figure in the next Parliament. But that strategy was thwarted.

It was the second year in succession that Sir Marcus, the MP for Shipley, has had to beat off a challenge. Last year he saw off Sir Nicholas Bonsor, now a junior minister, amid heavy criticism that he was too fond of relaying the views of the leadership to the backbenches, instead of transmitting the views and criticisms of MPs to the

Government. A number of MPs thought he

The 1922 executive officers and members

Chaleman Sir Marcus Fox.
Vice Chaleman Sir Recoffrey Johnson Smith; Dame Jif Kengit.
Transumer: Sir Cales Show.
Secondarless: Sir John Hannam; Sir Feter Housen.
Sinchtive mamblers: Sir Hindes Royson, Both Durin, Sir John Quarat, David

Sieres, Sir Annhony Grant, Sir Archie Hamilton, Sir Terence Plaggins, Sir Ivan Lawrence QC, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Sir Michael Neubert, James Pewsey, John Townerd

provoke a general election. There was further indignation after he offered the executive's endorsement of John Major in the summer leadership contest when two executive members, Mr Townend and David Evans, were backing John Redwood.

Sir Marcus said last night: "I am very mindful that over the next year the future of our party in government will be determined and I will do everything I possibly can to ensure that is brought about."

Mr Dunn said: "Naturally I am disappointed but of course it was an exercise in democracy. Both Marcus and I accept that this vote is healthy for the party. Now we are going to

No 1922 chairman is thought to have ever vacated office voluntarily. By convention the votes cast are never revealed, but Sir Marcus was believed last

### Major and **Bruton** struggle to revive summit

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, were last night urgently seeking to rescue the prospects of an early summit to inject fresh momentum into the Northern Ireland peace process.

The two leaders had a further "substantive" conversation which failed to resolve the outstanding differences over London's insistence that the IRA should begin the process of giving up their arms before all-party talks on a future political settlement can take place.

But they are expected to speak again today in the hope of securing advance agreement in time for what one Irish source said was still the possibility of a summit on Sunday hefore next week's visit by US President Bill Clinton.
The two sides have reached

broad agreement on the "twintrack" approach under which an international commission would examine the broad issue of arms decommissioning. At the same time the two governments would begin separate prelimipary talks with each of the Northern Ireland political parties - including Sinn Fein - on the outline of a longer-term political settlement.

While the Irish government is apparently no longer de-manding that the British requirement for the IRA to begin nanding over their arms should be part of the formal "remit" of the international commission, Dublin is suggesting that the commission should be able to make recommendations on how the request might be fulfilled.

There have been complaints that progress towards clearing the final "roadblocks" towards a summit has been impeded by the influence exercised on Mr Bruton by John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein. President Clinton's visit has been postponed by 24 hours until Wednesday to allow him to make a national television broadcast on Bosnia and the night to have won comfortably. | role of US troops in the peace.



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### news

### **Doctors** set to prescribe aerobic classes

#### JOJO MOYES

The hypochondriac – scourge of doctor's waiting rooms everywhere – may soon be prescribed advanced aerobics instead of antibiotics, following the launch of a scheme yesterday in which fitness programmes will be available on prescription.

The Wright Foundation Medical Referral Programme aims to bring together doctors and fitness experts to provide people with medically prescribed fitness programmes at their local leisure centres.

Patients with "prescriptions" will be able to use fitness facilities under supervision by specially trained fitness experts and at half the normal price.

The medical professional will be putting in a prescription. as we call it, which contains patient details that the referral consultant has to take into consideration," said Murdo Wallace, chairman and founder of the Wright Foundation, which masterminded the scheme. "We set it up because we realised that doctors were hesitant to send people on fitness programmes because they didn't have a medical basis.

More than 100 leisure centres across the country have already applied to have staff trained as referral programme consultants". By the time the courses begin next April, the foundation is hoping that 400 leisure centres will take part, following the success of a pilot scheme in Bournemouth.

"The pilot scheme began two years ago and there are currently 534 people referred there. It is now funded by the Dorset Health Commission who completely endorse it." Mr Murdo said.

Mr Murdo said that although paying for people to attend fit-ness classes might appear expensive in the short term. "Patients become less dependent on expensive medication so they're cutting down on the drugs bill." he said. He added that it could help relieve ailments from depression to cardio-vascular problems.

# Endgame in bitter chess battle







Pawns in the game: Garry Kasparov (left), who set up a rival chess association; Florencio Campomanes (centre) who has stepped down as president of Fide, and Anatoly Karpov

#### WILLIAM HARTSTON Chess Correspondent

#### Crisis in Fide: Colourful president resigns after vote of no-confidence

Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation (Fide) for 17 turbulent years, has resigned his post after a motion of no confidence was passed against him "and his whole team" at a president. meeting of the Fide Central The sniping between them continued until 1993 when Kas-

Committee in Paris. With his colourfully autocratic style, the 68-year-old Filipino had led Fide into some of the greatest crises in its history, yet his political skills had always in the past seemed to thrive on the storms and disputes he created. This time, however, he has been brought down by his efforts to do a deal with the rival Professional Chess Association and its leader, Garry Kasparov, the former Fide world champion

The battles began in 1985 when Campomanes abruptly terminated Kasparov's world championship match against Anatoly Karpov after the com- of the PCA, the expulsion of

batants had been at each other's throats for five-and-a-half months. Convinced that Campomanes was robbing him of a chance to win the title, Kasparov declared war against the Fide

parov, whose anti-Fide stance had not been supported by his fellow grandmasters, found an unlikely ally in England's Nigel Short, who was his official world championship challenger. Short's gripe with Fide in general and Campomanes in particular lay in a belief that he was being short-changed in their decision to accept a bid from Manchester to stage the title match. The prize money was far less than Short had been led to expect. So he contacted Kasparov and suggested they take

their custom elsewhere. The result was the formation both Short and Kasparov from Fide, and the creation of two world championship titles. Be-tween 1993 and 1995, the PCA and Fide ran parallel world championship eliminators. Kasparov defended his title a month ago against the young In-dian challenger, Viswanathan Anand, while Anatoly Karpov, who had recaptured the Fide titie, faced a challenge from the

American, former Russian,

Gata Kamsky. At this stage,

Campomanes comes back into

the story. At the end of 1994, his fourth term as Fide president was coming to a close and he had announced that he would not seek re-election. At the Fide congress in Moscow last December, he changed his mind and had his name again added to the ballot paper. His candidacy was supported in a stirring speech by Garry Kasparov, who said: "If Campomanes wants to

stay four more years, I would

Their joint platform was built on an agreement to reunify the two world titles. The schism was damaging to both organisations: the PCA lacked the credibility of backing by the world gov-erning body; Fide lacked the support of the strongest player in the world. So Campomanes was re-elected, and that is when the problems got worse.

While the PCA champiouship cycle proceeded smoothly, the Fide version ground to an unexpected halt after Kamsky and Karpov qualified for the final. Yet Campomanes, who had shown considerable skill in the past in finding multi-milliondollar sponsors for world title matches, was making no apparent effort to secure backing for the Karpov-Kamsky match. While full details of the Campomanes-Kasparov deal were never published, one major on alleged irregularities during

component had been the promise of a unifying match for the world championship in 1996. Yet the delay in organising Karpov-Kamsky brought accusations that the Fide cycle was being quietly forgotten. Both Karpov and Kamsky wrote furious open letters to Campomanes, Karpov accusing him of acting like "God and Tsar", while Karnsky accused him of being an ally of Kasparov in the latter's efforts "to prevent

the Karpov-Kamsky match". In September 1995, a letter was delivered to Fide headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, signed by 61 delegates from member nations, calling for an extraordinary general meeting. Campomanes negotiated, and managed to have it downgraded to an ordinary general meeting, but a motion of no-confidence in him was still

Campomanes's re-election in

Moscow.
The no-confidence motion was passed, by 14 votes to 12, at a preliminary meeting of the central committee. It still had to be formally confirmed by the General Assembly, but this time his opponents seemed to have done their homework well. Another surprise report, on the state of Fide finances, sealed his fate. The figures supported allegations that the president's high level of spending was more than the organisation could afford.

Without waiting for another vote, Campomanes resigned. Soon after, it was announced that the Karpov-Kamsky match for the Fide championship will take place in Montreal.

The American grandmaster Larry Evans, a veteran anti-Campomanes campaigner, summed it all up: "Every figure in history gets about one defin-ing sentence. For Campomanes the defining sentence will be 'They kicked him out'."

### Scare tactics ditched in drugs battle

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

A glossy guide to taking illegal drugs safely and a national helpline offering advice on any aspect of drug use are key elements in a Government initiative which has abandoned the "scare tactics" of previous

campaigns.
The £14m three-year campaign, launched just a week after the death of Leah Betts, who took a single Ecstasy tablet, marks a new pragmatism in dealing with the escalating problems of drug abuse among

teenagers. Young people who are considering taking drugs will have access to "all the information at hand to make an informed decision," according to the first issue of *D-Mag*, which provides straightforward facts about drugs, their health risks, and first

David Arnold, director of the drugs publicity campaign, which is being run by the Health Education Authority, said drugtaking was not glamourised or condoned by the magazine.

"This campaign acknowledges the positive beliefs about drugs but strongly counters this with facts about health risks. There is a serious level of

ignorance. said Mr Arnold. Preliminary findings from a HEA survey of 5,000 children and young people across the country, aged between 11 and 24, show that more 60 per cent regard health risks as the most important reason to stop taking drugs. A further 31 per cent said they did not know any of the health risks involved with Ecstasy, and a further 42 per cent knew nothing of the hazards of taking LSD.

The 24-hour helpline, which offers free and confidential advice to callers, was "essential" to the success of the new campaign, Mr Arnold said. "Getting [the helpline number] in front of every young person and their parents is the main purpose of today's launch."

The National Drugs Helpline: 0800 77 66 00.

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### news

### Leeson returns to face justice in Singapore

STEPHEN VINES

Nick Leeson, the man who is alleged to have brought down Barings bank with his rogue futures trading, has returned to Singapore as he left - travelling business class, accompanied by his wife Lisa - but this time they were joined by two lawyers and three security officers.

He fought extradition to Singapore for almost nine months but finally volunteered to return and to apologise for claims that he would not be able to get a fair trial in the republic.

a fair trial in the republic.

It was typical of Mr Leeson that he sought trial in Britain rather than Singapore. His two years in the republic were spent with hard-working, hard-drinking expatriates who got to know little of the country. They would instinctively believe that British justice was better than that offered by Singapore.

They have a point. Singaporean judges are not known for leniency. "Compassion went out of the window a long time ago, now I deliver justice." said Chief Justice Yong Pung-how in a recent judgment.

Compassion may be in short supply but last month's publication of Singapore's independent inspectors report into the Barings collapse made it clear they would not simply blame Mr Leeson for the debacle.

eeson for the debacle. extradite Lawrence Ang, the director gapore.

of Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), specialists in financial crime, has said that if Leeson offered to cooperate with his team he saw no reason not to accept the offer. Mr Leeson will appear in a

district court this morning where details will be given of all or some of the 11 fraud, forgery and deception charges he faces. The district court cannot im-

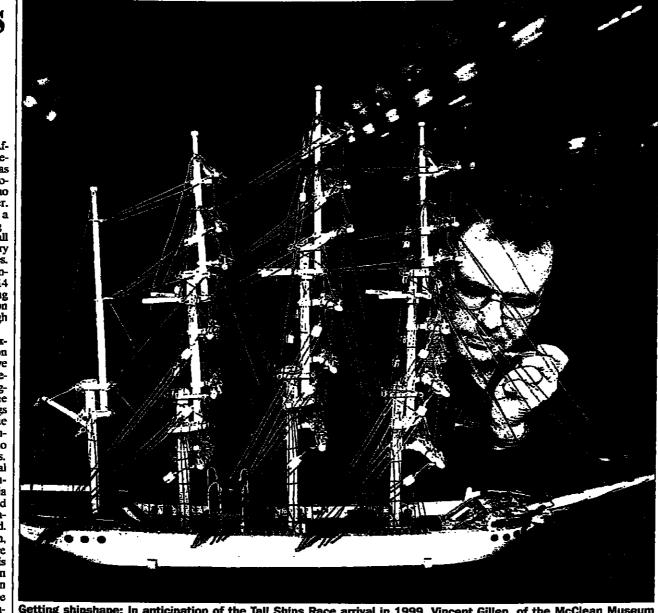
pose sentences exceeding 14 years. Any sentence exceeding five years would mean detention in one of Singapore's four tough maximum security prisons.

Some Singaporean legal experts believe that Mr Leeson could escape with less than five years in jail if the authorities believe that he has made a significant contribution to the conviction of senior Barings officials who are named in the report as having lied to the investigators and attempted to cover up the bank's problems. The most vulnerable official

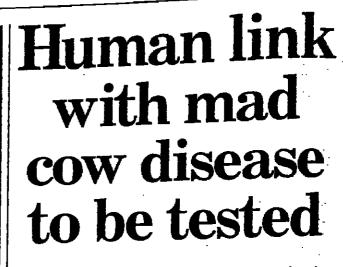
The most vulnerable official is James Bax, the former managing director of Baring Asia Pacific. He has been questioned by CAD and remains in Singapore with his passport withheld.

Mr. Bay's boss in London

Mr Bax's boss in London, Peter Norris, the chief executive of Barings Investment bank, is even more heavily criticised in the report. However, he is in London and would need to be extradited to face charges in Singapore.



Getting shipshape: In anticipation of the Tall Ships Race arrival in 1999, Vincent Gillen, of the McClean Museum in Greenoch, Strathclyde, restores a model of the Snagow by J Mcvey, from an 1890 ship built in Port Glasgow



TOM WILKIE Science Editor

Bits of brain taken from dairy farmers who recently died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease – the human equivalent of mad cow disease – are being injected into laboratory mice in what scientists hope may be a definitive experiment to show whether BSE can spread to humans.

Brains from infected cattle have already been "passaged" through mice which catch the murine (mouse) equivalent. According to Dr Sheila Gore, from the Institute of Public Health in Cambridge, tissue infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy produces a distinctive pattern of damage to the mouse brains. She said: "If that pattern were seen when material from brains of CJD farmers is used it would suggest very strongly that BSE had come into humans. It would prove the link"

Public concern about a possible link between the bovine and the human diseases has recently been heightened following the deaths of four farmers and two young people from CJD. But it will take at least two years before the results of the experiments in mice are known.

experiments in mice are known. In an article published in to-day's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Gore warns that the "cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in farmers and young adults are more than happenstance. They signal an epidemiological alert to investigate intensively possible exposures—

farm related and dietary."
Dr Gore said yesterday:
"There is some urgency to this.
It would be negligent if we did
not follow these things up." She
stressed, however, that she was
not saying humans had been infected: "We don't have proof

that BSE has come into humans. We do have an unusually high number of occurrences in people who have worked with adult cattle so that we want to look at occupational exposures."

Cows are believed to have caught BSE by eating cattle meal infected with sheep scrapie, following changes around 1982 in the way the rendering industry treated offal and other wastes.

From the first certified case in 1986 to the middle of this year, the disease has been confirmed in more than half of dairy herds and 15 per cent of beef suckler herds. Dairy farmers are therefore at risk of occupational exposure to the agent that causes the disease, if BSE is transmissible to humans.

Dr Gore added: "I don't know what the dairy farmer source may be. Farmers do apparently eat cattle cake – it's rich in protein." If farmers did eat cattle cake in the early 1980s it would have been contaminated with BSE infected material. Dr Gore pointed out that the incidence of CJD is much higher among dairy farmers than it is for farmers as a whole and that this is true not just in Britain but in other European countries.

It is possible that these countries have had infected but not affected cattle – calves exported from the UK for veal for example might be infected but would be slaughtered before the disease became apparent.

Dr Gore suggested that it would be worth studying CJD among farmers in countries such as the US, New Zealand, and Australia where there has essentially been no incidence of BSE to see if the trend holds that there is a higher incidence among dairy farmers than for farmers as a whole.

# Driver in stupor killed cyclist

A disqualified driver in a drunken stupor ran down and killed a cyclist 10 days after being released from prison for his third drink-driving offence, a court was told yesterday.

was told yesterday.

Brendon Cheshire was so drunk he was not fit to be interviewed until nearly 24 hours after the crosh

after the crash.

Cheshire has numerous previous convictions dating back to his teens for dangerous driving, driving without insurance, failing to give breath specimens, and 14 offences of driving while disqualified, the Old Bailey heard.

Jailing Cheshire, 35, of Barking, Essex, for six years, Judge Brian Capstick told him: "There are clear aggravating features in this case, there is drink, there is failure to stop and there is your previous record."

Cheshire had drunk nearly a bottle of whisky and was three and a half times over the legal limit for driving when he knocked David Stoten from his bicycle as he tried to overtake him on a flyover in Barking in August, said Lindsay Burn, for

the prosecution.
Witnesses heard the screech

of tyres and a bang and found 35-year-old Mr Stoten, who had said goodnight to his fiancée moments before and was cycling to his home, lving in the road by his smashed bicycle.

Cheshire had not stopped but was arrested outside a block of flats near by. Residents had called police after they saw his car, its windscreen smashed, mount the pavement. They saw him stagger from it, too drunk to walk properly.

to walk properly.

When officers arrived
Cheshire was slumped in the
driving seat, too drunk to stand
up by himself. "I have had an
accident," he told police who
saw his eyes were glazed, his
speech slurred and his answers

incomprehensible.

Cheshire had left prison determined not to drink but when he found out his girlfriend and the mother of his child wanted no more to do with him he started again.

agrim for Lon

ed again.

His counsel, Joseph Giret, said Cheshire deeply regretted the accident whire admitted causing death by dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and without insurance.



'Damp white imprints ... '

By Yevgeny Yevtushenko (translated by Anthony Kahn)

Damp white imprints dog the feet; snowbound trolley, snowbound street. Her tip of glove to lip and cheek,

"Good-bye." Go. Deathly, into soaring snow and stillness, as expected, go, A turn:

the plunge into the metro. A blare of lights. A melting hat. I stand, am spun in drafts, see black, take the tunnel, train, and track, sit and wait as others sat, touch cold marble, chill my hand, and, heavy-hearted, understand that nothing ever really happened, ever would, ever can.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko was born in Siberia in 1933. He has been an outspoken political activist throughout his life. A critic of Stalinism in the late Forties and early Fifties, his poetry became well known in the Soviet Union and was translated into 22 languages. He was a member of Soviet Parliament from 1988-91. Despite being a political writer, he is essentially a lyric poet, writing with great tenderness about the human condition. This Saturday, as part of the Rewriting History Series, he will be giving a poetry reading at 7.30pm with Nayantara Sahgal in the Purcell Room, the South Bank Centre, London SE1. Box Office inquiries to 0171 960 4242.



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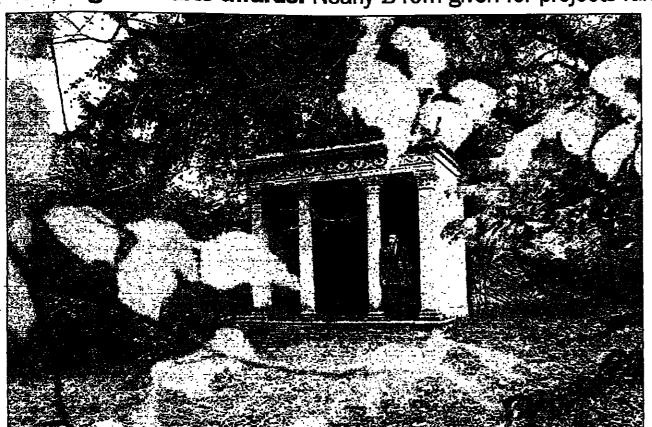
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Heritage and arts awards: Nearly £40m given for projects ranging from £4.9m for parkland to £1,500 for a memorial tablet



Churches and Wales win top share of lottery cash

#### REBEÇCA FOWLER

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has given £4.9m of lot-tery money for the National Trust to buy Croome Park near Worcester, one of the country's finest landscaped gardens. It was one of 56 projects that benefit-ed from the £13.7m worth of yesterday, many of which had a strong Welsh or ecclesiastical theme. A further £25m was handed out to 76 projects by the

Arts Council. The grants ranged from the £4.9m from the NHMF for the park and £6m from the Arts Council for a National Glass Museum in Sunderland, to £1,500 - the smallest the heritage fund has awarded so far - to St Andrew's church in Somerset for the restoration of memorial tablet.

Despite its vocal opposition to

the National Lottery, the Church of England stands to be one of the greatest recipients of lottery money. Bath Abbey, which re-

don and the South Lord Roth-schild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, which handles the grants for the NHMF, said that ceives 300,000 visitors a year, was given £500,000 yesterday to clean the interior, and 18 grants were given to churches for bells, organs and rebuilding. he was anxious the fund should "I regard the introduction of increase its Welsh spending, currently £1.1m, although he the lottery as a fresh form of gambling, which slips us down the road of materialism a bit fursaid he was anxious not to cre-

ther," Prebendary Richard Askew, Rector of Bath Abbey. said. "But it exists and this is how the Government has decided to ographically and by popula-tion," he said. fund Britain's heritage. We who are the stewards of these build-

ings must face up to it and draw There was also a strong Welsh theme to the projects, which inchided a £372,000 grant to the National Trust to buy Hafod which belonged to Charles I. . The HLF also published its Garregog, a 169-hectare estate including the 15th-century house annual report yesterday. So far

of Owain Glyndwr, the last in-dependent Prince of Wales. The distributors of lottery

per cent for land projects, 17 per cent for buildings, 24 per cent money have been accused of for museums and galleries, 19 per cent for manuscripts and concentrating funds in Lonarchives and 13 per cent for industrial, maritime and transport.

"Over time we wish to achieve a fair balance both ge-

A £300,000 grant goes to the National Gallery in Scotland buy a painting, the Madonna and Child with the Infant Saint John the Baptist and Attendant Angels by Guilio Procaccini.

ate "theme-park Wales".

Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, attacked the Government yesterday for taking too intrusive a role in the distribution of lottery money. In Secretary of State for National Heritage, he criticised plans to use funds to foster a direct rela-tionship between schools and artistic centres for excellence.

While I have proposed the idea of a "talent fund" from lottery proceeds ... I am concerned that ministers are becoming increasingly involved with the distribution of lottery proceeds towards specific proccts of their own choice," Dr

### Trust to rescue first landscape by Capability Brown

#### **CHRIS MOWBRAY**

The birthplace of Britain's modern love affair with gardening, Croome Park in the Severn valley, brought international fame to the nation's greatestever landscape artist. Now the park, designed by Capability Brown in the second half of the 18th century, is to be restored by the National Trust over the next 10 years at a cost of £8m.

As the National Heritage Memorial Fund announced in Cardiff yesterday that it was giving £4.9m towards the project. officials of the trust's Severn region shunned the reception to get out and about on their new treasure in Wellington boots

and Barbour jackets. It was during the 1750s that the then unknown Lancelot Brown was retained by the sixth Earl of Coventry to turn 675 acres of Worcestershire marsh into a classical manicured landscape which set the standard for sweeping parklands across the

country in the Georgian age. The unusual partnership beween the two men developed into a life-long friendship and created a new art form inspired by classical philosophy and the concept of the Grand Tour.

It also earned Brown his nickname. When reporting on how the work was progressing, the designer would regularly knock on his employer's door to tell him: "The park has its capabilities, my lord."

This was Capability Brown's first great landscape park and it is of tremendous importance," David Brown the trust's regional public affairs manager, said.
"It is also unusual because it

includes work by the architect Thomas Adam and the sculptor James Wyatt. Here you have something which combines the work of the three finest artists

of the late 18th century. "It has altered little since it was created except that it has decayed and was ravaged by Dutch elm disease in the Seventies. We intend to restore it totally and will be opening it so that the public can see the work taking shape."

The centrepiece of the park is Brown's mile-long artificial river, which is really a manmade lake. The land also includes his grotto to Sabrina, the goddess of the River Severn, made with some of the earliest artificial garden stone.

Other features include man-made island, two classical temples designed by Robert Adam and the statue of a druid and a memorial to Brown by James Wyatt.

The trust's regional director. Cecil Pearse, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to restore a unique creation. Brown Earls of Coventry, but we are doing it for the nation - that is why we find it so exciting."

The park is being bought from the Sun Alliance, which has owned it since 1981 and is giving £300,000 towards the restoration. The house itself, Croome Court, is empty. Owned now by a property developer, it is on the market and is not part of the package.

The estate was sold off and the Coventry family moved out in 1948. The 11th earl, known locally as "Bill", still lives near by and walks regularly on the land.

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THE COLORS -- SPECIFICATIONS



FHE AWARD WINNING CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

### Puttnam sees a grim future for London

#### MATTHEW BRACE

London will slip into cultural obscurity and social decay unless radical changes are made in the next few years, City cam-paigners warned a conference

on the capital's future yesterday.

Speaking at the Royal Geographical Society in central London, the environmentalist and film producer Sir David Puttnam painted a grim picture of London in the next century, overtaken culturally by other world centres and plagued by a general malaise among its population.

To avoid such a fate, he said, London's 85 MPs urgently need to form a caucus to debate and drive change, not least in trying to establish it as Europe's arts

"London seems unable to display any form of confidence and unless we get it back in the near future the result will be the most distressing, upsetting thing I can imagine," he said.

He added that the millenni-um and its associated festivals and events would be vital for London's future, promising an estimated 100 million tourists.

The millennium is not just a chance for London, but its last chance," he said. "But I can only think that for the Government, the 31st of December that year is just a date for a fireworks

Sir David also said that for far too long Londoners had put up with inadequacies in their services and surroundings. For years people have commuted to and from work in appalling conditions but they never complain. Why not stage a one-day strike when everyone refuses to come to work unless things improve?" he suggested.

"And the year after, a two-day strike, and so on until something gets done.'

Also speaking at the confer-ence, and equally critical of the state of London and concerned for its future, was the architect Sir Richard Rogers, who reit-erated his blueprint for a 21st century London for the public, with pedestrianised squares and streets, plush public transport, and a revitalised river Thames.

His plans include more bridges across the river, the planting of a million trees to reforest the Embankment, and increased river transport.

"The public need somewhere to meet, we should be giving them places to meet," he said. His main attack was on the car, saying the average speed in London is now 10mph, the same as it was 100 years ago. Also on the conference agenda was how the capital will sur-

vive as a financial world centre

and how it is to be governed locally in the next millemium.



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### international

Diana in Argentina: Public remain indifferent to 'ambassador' and sceptical of President Menem's motives for the trip



## **Ghosts of Falklands** haunt Princess's visit

PHIL DAVISON Buenos Aires

If she thought she was going to fly away from it all, the Princess of Wales was mistaken. When she settled into her first-class British Airways seat for an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, the in-flight TV news review concentrated on one theme only - her BBC interview.

Journalists, kept at a distance by the Princess's detectives, said they were not sure whether she watched. She appeared to take a tablet, possibly a sleeping pill, and dozed during most of the 13-hour flight, they said.

She had to. After a quick wash and brush-up at the British Embassy, she was straight into her first appoint-ment, patting disabled young-sters' heads at a paralysis centre and chatting to victims of road. rugby and swimming accidents.
The Princess had flown into

Ezeiza international airport, then on by helicopter to the capital's military airport. She was no doubt unaware that it was at that airport, around the time she was courting Prince Charles, that Argentine Air Force planes used to load anti-government suspects, "drugged like zom-bies", before tossing them out alive over the mouth of the river

ident, Carlos Menem, who will host a lunch for her at his official residence today, is being widely accused here of trying to garner near-royal powers for himself. He is currently trying to push through measures that would allow him to bypass Congress and rule by decree on key

ssues such as tax reform and privatisation of industries.

Insisting that her visit is about charity, she may also be maware that this nation's Presumaware that the presumaware t

His remark appeared to con-firm a widely held belief here that the Argentine government proposed organised and financed the trip, although the Princess was ostensibly invited by the Infant Paralysis Association she visited yesterday. The theory implied that Mr Menem wanted the Princess here to rivatisation of industries.

The Princess looked relaxed

The princess looked relaxed

The princess looked relaxed

The princess looked relaxed

ambassador, this was possibly the wrong place to start. The Malvinas [Falklands] defeat is a scar that will never heal," said Daniel Antonio, who runs a corner store next to the clinic the Princess visited. "It was our Hiroshima. We'll never forget."

An opposition senator, Luis Leon, went further. "This national fawning over the visit gives prestige to a monarchy that has taken the lives of our young people to preserve a colonialism that usurped our territory," he said.

Local reporters said Argentine Air Force helicopters had been enlisted to ferry the Princess to and fro because the presidential helicopter, offered by Mr Menem, carried the name "Malvinas Argentinas" (Argentine Falklands) on the sides. There had been talk of covering the name with a sticker but it was feared the rotor blades would blow them off and embarrass the Princess, the re-

porters said. Overall, though, the Princess was met with indifference. "No me va ni me viene" (I don't care one way or the other) was the most common response. A few dozen people had assembled outside the clinic vesterday but most were curious neighbours

#### The Malvinas is a scar that will never heal. It was our Hiroshima'

as she was greeted at the mili-tary airport by the mayor of Buenos Aires, Jorge Dominguez, and driven off in a new V12 Jaguar. The Jag and a twin model for the British ambassador, Sir Peter Hall, carried the diplomatic plates of the embassy. But their registration discs gave the show away. They had been imported from Chile especially for her visit. The ambassador normally drives a Rover.

The cars, the first-class tick-ets for her and her staff, and the general costs of her stay, raised the question of who exactly

showing that he is making progress in his pledge to regain the Falkland Islands. President Menem, whose own

love life – complete with a di-vorce and an illegitimate child – has often fed the gossip columns. will be host at a lunch for the Princess today. Tomorrow she flies to Patagonia to go whale-watching and take tea with the descendants of Welsh settlers. She flies home on Sunday to

face the music with Buckingham Palace for revealing the secret life of Britain's royals.

was footing the bill. "You'd a career as a kind of goodwill by journalists.

If the Princess hopes to make and they were far outnumbered

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### EU to slash farmers' aid before expanding east with, or in some cases below,

KATHERINE BUTLER

The European Union is considering sweeping new changes to its farm policy to prepare the EU for expansion to include former Communist states in Centrai and Eastern Europe.

New cuts in the support given to Europe's 9 million farm-ers are outlined in a draft of a £8bn-12bn, draft plans say. long-awaited white paper on enlargement strategy, prepared by the EU Agriculture Com-

The proposals are certain to provoke hostility from the big farming lobbies, particularly in France and Germany.

The draft says that to expand eastward without scaling down the £30bn-a-year Common Agriculture Policy will cause an explosion in spending and a return to the notorious grain and beef mountains and milk lakes of the early Eighties, Earlier reforms of the CAP have removed these surpluses and brought EU farm prices in line

world market levels. The fear is that eastward expansion could renew the cycle of overproduction. Agriculture is important to the economies of Eastern Europe, where a quarter of the workforce is employed on the land. If the status quo is retained, the annual cost to taxpayers would rise by

The proposals will go before EU heads of government when they meet in Madrid next month. They suggest that the 10 former Communist states hoping for membership by the turn of the century should be made to wait several years after joinbefore being allowed to take advantage of the CAP's

generous support. During the transition period they would get extensive aid to revamp their decrepit farms as well as a gradual opening-up of EU agricultural markets to their exports. The paper steers clear of specifying how long the delay would last.

Regardless of enlargement, Mr Fischler says deeper CAP reform is inevitable because of internal budgetary pressures and world trade liberalisation. The warning is intended to head off a row between fierce critics of the farm policy, such as Britain, and its stalwart supporters, including France and Ireland, which could block the entire enlargement process.

Price cuts, he says, could continue to be compensated for by direct payments to farmers introduced in the 1992 round of reforms, but would be limited to "where necessary".

The CAP, which is a bureaucratic nightmare to run because of its complexity and red tape, would also be simplified.

The paper also suggests replacing the annual springtime price-fixing haggle with a USstyle five-year support programme. Brussels would devolve control over running the policy to national governments, including responsibility for some direct income supports.

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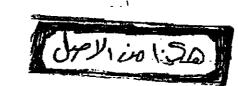
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### PEACE IN THE BALKANS

# Milosevic slaps down hardline Bosnian Serbs

Sarajevo

President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia last night claimed victory in his struggle with Serb hardliners in Bosnia opposed to ations. The report appears to seal Mr Karadzic's fate. The the Dayton peace deal, deal requires him to surrender reporting that Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb President, had accepted an although that may be a conagreement that will end his career and, in theory, put him on trial for war crimes.

Milosevic had summoned Mr Karadzic and other hardline

said Belgrade won the day. Bosnian Serb objections to the plan, centred on the sacrifice of most of Serb-held Sarajevo, would be met through negoticession too dangerous for Mr Milosevic to follow through.

Mr Milosevic had summoned After a secretive meeting his former clients to Belgrade near Belgrade, to which Mr for a lecture on the facts of life: his former clients to Belgrade namely, that he will be damned if his Bosnian rebels wreck Serbia's chance of escaping the in-

Therefore, a peace-friendly leadership must emerge. Mr Karadzic has yet to respond publicly to the agreement, and may be holding his fire until he is safely back home in Pale.

Never has the concept of "Serb unity", for which the Bosnian war was supposedly fought, looked so bedraggled.

The deal signed by Mr Milo-sevic has strained the competing interests of the rebels in Bosnia to breaking point, as shown by the contradictory responses to the Dayton deal trickling out of the "Republika Srpska". Whether the cracks can be papered over, an alternative Serb leadership found and the

during the dangerous few weeks before the Nato Implementa-

The geographical and political poles of Republika Srpska - Banja Luka and Pale - have slowly drifted apart, and the gap has been immeasurably widened by the deal. Banja Luka, a large in city in north-ern Bosnia, has always smarted at the concentration of power in the "capital" of Pale, a two-

ahead in the peace stakes. Under the new map, the Republika Srpska will regain

cow ski resort close to Saraje-

including a vital hydro-elec-tricity plant that supplies the city. However, the Bosnian Serbs will surrender five districts of Sarajevo, a bad enough fate for residents of the area, but

fatal for the Pale politicians. The new maps, said Momci-lo Krajisnik, are "bad, blackmailing and servile". The hard-line speaker of parliament, a delegate to Dayton and member for Serb Sarajevo. added: "We have warned President Milosevic that no one has the right to sign such a plan."

vo. But it has come out well However, the mayor of Banja Luka, perhaps in revenge,

some land around Banja Luka, given to President Milosevic to represent us," he said. "[He] had the right to initial the docu-

> The two Bosnian Serb leaders. Mr Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, are barred from holding office because of their indictment on war crimes charges. Mr Karadzic may cling to power the only way he can, by scuppering the agreement, but it seems General Mladic, who never sought political power, is ready to go.

Through his deputy, General Milan Gvero, the military reacted with compliance to the deal. Mr Milosevic had shown

peace and his principled stance in the search for a final solu-tion", he said. It was now important "to do everything to really breathe life into this peace". General Gvero may be thinking of his future, but it is almost inconceivable that he spoke without General Mladic's

lessing.
So how could Mr Karadzic defeat his former mentor in Belgrade? UN officials believe the next few weeks will be the riskiest, as no one expects much of a fight from the Serbs once Nato's troops are in place. They fear the pro-war leadership may stage some bloody event to

US Congress will need little encouragement to obstruct the de-ployment of US troops in Bosnia, and without the Amer-

icans, the French and British are likely to fall by the wayside. The officer corps is loyal to General Mladic, and Belgrade. while the soldiers are underpaid, exhausted and fed up. But Mr Karadzic has poured money into the paramilitary police, which might consider its interests (bribery and corruption)

best served by more war. "In the long run, I don't think Karadzic can endure", an observer said. "But he may start quite a serious fight if he is utterly desperate.

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reporting on projects being run by the four charities we are asking you to support: Save the Children, whose main effort is focused on children who have been separated from their families; the Inter-

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Over the next week we will be through its famous messaging network: War Child, which plans to build a £2.5m music therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgently needed prosthetics out to wounded children in the Tuzia area; and, Child Advocacy International, which national Red Cross, which is aims to bring up to 100 sick chil-conducting the largest human-dren to Britain for treatment.



Heart to heart: A Bosnian government soldier hugging his girlfriend in a park in the centre of Sarajevo. The peace settlement means he may never have to return to the front line

### rebuilding a war-torn land

EU dreams of

SARAH HELM Brussels

No sooner has the ink on the Bosnian peace agreement dried than bureaucrats in Brussels, Washington and other world capitals, working on the postwar reconstruction plan, have begun to talk in astonishingly idealistic tones about the future of the war-torn land.

Within days, the EU, which hopes to oversee reconstruction jointly with the World Bank, will dispatch a mission to the Bosnians to discuss "priority needs". The "peace implementation" conference is to be held in London on 8-9 December. when a decision will be made on forming a steering committee. probably consisting of the leading Western countries and Russia. A. top representative, probably Carl Bildt, the EU representative to former Yugoslavia, is also to be appointed to oversee civilian aspects of the

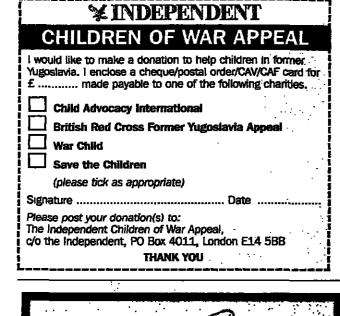
peace plan. At the end of December will come a "pledging conference", are immense. in which nations will offer to help pay the \$5bn (£3.2bn) that the World Bank estimates will be needed to rebuild the federation areas of Bosnia alone. Mr Bildt has suggested contributions ought to be split between the EU, the United

The idea is to reconstruct towns and villages in Bosnia, not only to physically rebuild houses, factories, roads and bridges but to bring the communities together again. We are not just dealing with reconstruction in a physical sense, but a human sense," said Edward Kronenberg, the Dutch official overseeing the EU policy.

Refugees are to have the automatic "right of return". this being an element of the peace deal and a condition of the Europeans' rebuilding programme. Another condition imposed by the Europeans for rebuilding is that the authorities in Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia co-operate with the war crimes tribunal, comply with strict human rights requirements and allow international observers.

The rebuilders talk of "healing" and "reconciliation", as if bricks and mortar might somehow wipe away the gruesome events of the war. But. even in Brussels, the rebuilders know that the problems they face

Plans cannot be laid to reconstruct Serb-held areas until it is clear that Muslims who left may return. It is unclear whether aid money will be used to rebuild villages in Krajina, both those deserted by Croats in 1991 and those razed by States and the rest of the world. Croats after the Serbs fled.



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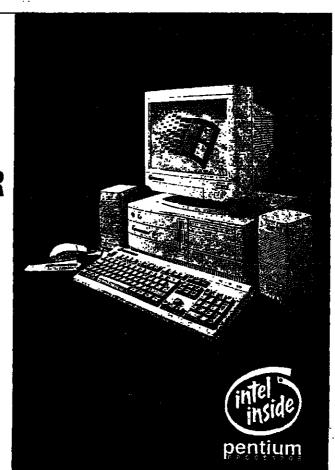
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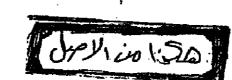
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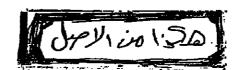
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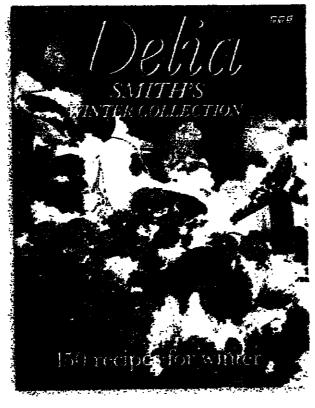
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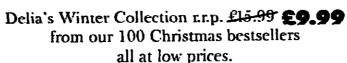
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### international

Papandreou's progress: Nation waits anxiously as hopes rise for recovery from pneumonia and Pasok dissidents remain silent



### Heirs gather to fight for Greek succession

NDREW GUMBEL

Three days after the frail and ageing Andreas Papandreou was rushed to hospital to be treated for pneumonia, doctors and close confidants said yesterday they were cautiously optimistic that he would pull through even though he was still in intensive care and struggling to wean himself off an artificial

respirator.
With the whole country anxiously following the Prime Minrumour has swirled around Athens about the state of his health and the possible political consequences of his inca-pacitation or demise. But yesterday his aides were busy discussing contingency plans for nothing more serious than a long convalescence.

I would bet that the old lion will make it," said a senior member of Mr Papandreou's

entourage.
Official bulletins, although short on hard information, registered a steady improvement in the 76-year-old premier's condition, and officials at the Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre said

ter could be off the respirator and back home within a week

Even if he does pull through, however, Mr Papandreou's political future looks to be in grave doubt. Even before this latest emergency, he was so frail he could not work for more than a few hours a day and avoided all but the most important public functions. He underwent a triple heart bypass operation in 1988, and since then has grown ever

however, much of Pasok has been in open revolt over the Prime Minister's refusal to face up to his own physical frailty, and over the increasingly prominent political role played by his wife, Mimi. Before his hospitalisation, a powerful group of dissidents led by former ministers Vasso Papandreou, Theodoros Pangalos and Costas Simitis appeared to be making rapid progress in their campaign to democratise Pasok.

Even if he does pull through, his political future is in doubt

ago at a parliamentary meeting of his party Pasok, he barely had the strength to turn the pages of

Such is the power of Mr Papandreou's personality and the autocratic nature of his leadership that pressure for him to step down, or at least make pro-vision for his succession, was for a long time articulated only by a handful of senior party dissidents too prominent to risk serious punishment.

That campaign is on ice. Mr Papandreou is a national hero and for now he is above criticism. When the leading dissi-dents visited Mr Papandreou at his bedside on Monday night they were jeered by a crowd of well-wishers standing outside the hospital. None of them has

uttered as a word in public since. The government, meanwhile, remains in the hands of Mr Papandreou's inner circle. Aides insist that the Prime Minister is

can only communicate through hand gestures and writing. It is more likely that the crisis is being managed by two close col-leagues: Akis Tsochadzopoulos, the Interior Minister, who is the constitutional deputy for the premier, and Antonis Livanis, Mr Papandreou's Cabinet sec-retary, who has ministerial rank and carries responsibility for the

secret services.

The position of Mr Livanis, who is also close to Mrs Papandreou, is particularly crucial because he has the power to con-vene the Cabinet at any time. Meanwhile the Foreign Minister, Karolos Papoulias, is expected to represent Greece at a meeting of Mediterranean leaders in Barcelona next month, and President Costis Stephanopoulos will probably attend the EU summit in Madrid.

The loyalists will no doubt keep the dissidents in check as long as Mr Papandreou is convalescing. But their grip is unlikely to last forever. If Mr Papandreou makes a full recovery, he can expect to face his critics all over again. If he remains too weak to carry on or dies, the struggle for succession will be more emotionally charged but no less vicious.

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the most crime-free country in the industrialised world. The streets are clean. The trains always run on time. You never space lower down than the storm have to tip and, apart from the troopers were onto us, escorting odd typhoon and a few sticky weeks in the summer, the climate is mild and predictable. So why does it provoke the kind of trustrated loathing usually reserved for third-world dictatorships? Complaining about Japan (the expense, the language, the bureaucracy) makes up a good 50 per cent of expatriate conversations. There are even clinics for foreigners suf-

fering from culture shock. The other day I began to understand why. My particular epiphany was unexpected because it occurred at what should have been a jolly occasion. Blur, the reigning princes of British pop music, were playing in Tokyo, and I had tickets. "Bra", as they are called here, are big in Japan, and images of the band



Day Mon: Fined for stepping out of line in Tokyo

and their lead singer Damon ("Day Mon") Albara were plastered over my local record shop. In capital spirits, my friend and I took the subway to the opening concert at Budokan hall.

The Budokan is the country's most famous concert venue and the location of some of the most solemn state occasions. I was here in August for the 50th anniversary ceremony of the end of the war. Unsmiling men with heavy bulges in their jackets had scrutinised our IDs. But the security extended to the Emperor was nothing to that en-

ioved by Bra. Steel barriers funnelled the crowd to the doors, scrutinised by megaphone-wielding stew-ards. "Unauthorised objects must not be brought into the hall," they warned. Inside, more officials bustled us to our seats in the back row of the upper cir-cle behind a pillar. Even the front row was 10 yards from the stage. Patrolling this fenced-off no-man's-land were more of the fellows in suits. They were everywhere: crouching in the aisles to mop up anyone foolish enough to move out of their scats, inspecting the tickets of anything that moved.

Why do foreigners in Japan get so wound up? This, after all, is the entertainment began. My The band bounced on and mate and I quickly abandoned our perch at the back, but no sooner had we found a vacant us back up again.

For the rest of the evening we played cat and mouse in a sim ple effort to see the band. During one evasive action, we say one of the suited Gestapo catch a transgressor. She was a schoolgirl, and she had been caught in possession of one of the unauthorised objects we had been warned about. The tone of the man who was barking at her suggested that this must be something serious: a knife perhaps, drugs? No. The object was a small disposable camera. "It's the first time, so we'll let you off," the guard told her. "I have committed a rudeness, I have committed a rudeness," said the girl, bowing repeatedly. She re-entered the auditorium, tears

On stage the sprightly Day Mon was also about to make a big mistake. "Ye-e-e-es, They're stereotypes,/There must be more to life," he sang. clambening off the stage and towards the crowd. "All your life you're dreaming/Then you stop dreaming," he went on, offering the microphone to the front row. In an instant, eight security guards were on top of him, bundling him back on to the stage. Later he threw his hat into the audience. A hand shot up and caught it. The hand belonged to another steward.

rolling down her cheeks.

After the show I went backstage and found a frowning Damon who revealed that the band would be fined for this behaviour. Penalties were also imposed for running over time

they gave too many encores. Bra wanted to have a good time. The girl with the camera wanted to have a good time. I certainly wanted to have a good time. What was stopping us? Japan, more than any other country, attracts conspiracy theories. The conformity and homogeneity, the rules and bureaucracy, you will hear, are all part of a plot orchestrated by the Liberal Democratic Party-/Ministry of Finance/Bank of Japan to keep the populace under its thumb. A book pub-lished earlier this year seriously claimed that the reason cash-dispensing machines close so early

in Japan (mid-afternoon at weekends) is to discourage peo-ple from spending, thus pro-moting savings and fuelling economic expansion with a ready supply of cheap money. Such academic paranoia is easy to pooh-pooh. But in the Budokan I felt for the first time the presence of some great impersonal killjoy force, singularly devoted to snuffing out fun.

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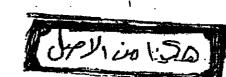
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Searching for clues: A bomb disposal officer sifts for traces of the explosive device that killed one man and wounded three others yesterday in Karachi, Pakistan. Police said the bomb was planted in a motorcycle parked in the congested central financial district. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack Photograph: Reuter

National shutdown: Unions challenge social security reforms

### Public sector strike tests Chirac's resolve

MARY DEJEVSKY

France today faces a nationwide shut-down of public services and transport as six of the country's seven major trade unions stage a 24-hour strike against government plans to reform the health and social security system. The strike comes three days after a national student protest brought more than 100,000 on to the streets and conjures up visions of a winter of discontent that could sorely test the resolve of President Jacques Chirac.

Early yesterday evening, air, sea and rail transport was already winding down across France. Today, no more than 20 per cent of services are guaranteed. Schools, hospitals, benefit offices, town halls, gas and electricity boards will all be affected, if not shut down altogether. There will be no national newspapers.

The strike was called last week after the Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, set out sweeping measures to overhaul the social security system, including a new tax designed to pay off the an end to some of the fiscal advantages enjoyed by public sector employees.

Although trade union membership in France is low by European standards, it is high in the public sector, and most forecasts suggested that today's strike would be well supported.

Workers, whether unionised or not, see their right to a full pension after 37.5 years (compared with 40 years in the private sector) and certain tax

cutting plan expected to reduce branch lines, and staff. Hospitals face spending limits; the airlines want productivity improvements. All face a pay freeze in 1996. The social security reforms are the fi-

Union leaders have their own reason to fear the reforms. They currently sit on the joint coun-- with employers' and

The French connection

Nine of 12 London Paris Eurostar trains are expected to run and 10 in the return direction. Although cross Channel ferries could be disrupted; those operated by British companies should be unaffected. The Shuttle is triaffected, but there will be no Motorail services. Air France says long-haul flights will operate normally, but only 20 per cent of short-haul flights can be guaranteed. The internal Air Inter flights are expected to be badly hit. Disruption on the high-speed train network will be extensive. In Paris, only 20 per cent of tube trains and buses are expected to run.

advantages threatened. Because average pay in the public sector is low, they fear that their living standards will be disproportionately affected by a new tax designed to pay off the social security system's debt as well as by the taxation of benefits.

Almost every branch of the public sector also has its own grievance. Railway workers are awaiting details of a deficit-

doctors' representatives - which manages the social security sys-

would deprive them of much of this power, transferring to parliament the right to set the budget and oversee its spending. Opposition to increased taxation and fear of any change, es-

tem. Mr Juppe's proposals

pecially in something as cherished in France as the health and social security

system, extends well beyond the public sector. An opinion poll published yesterday found that 54 per cent of those asked supported the strike, and 64 per cent would support a general

All these considerations argue for a strong turn-out today, but it may not be sustainable. Private sector employees and small business resent what many see as feather-bedding in the public sector.

Moreover, the unions themselves are divided. The second largest union, the FO (Force Ouvriere), which supported the public sector strike on 10 October, is not taking part in today's action, having called its own strike for next Tuesday. And Nicole Notat, the fiery leader of the largest union, the CFDT, is facing a revolt from her executive over her apparent acceptance - initially - of some of Mr Juppé's proposals.

The difficulty for President Chirac is to judge how far today's strike is a one-off expression of anger orchestrated by unions worried about their power and supported by a privileged section of workers, and how far it reflects a deeper – and more dangerous public discontent.



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### Ex-army boss manoeuvres to succeed Peres

PATRICK COCKBURN

In sharp contrast to the haverings of General Colin Powell, there is seldom any doubt about the political ambitions of former military leaders in Israel. But even Éhud Barak, when he stepped down as chief of staff in 1994, can hardly have expected that in less than a year he would be foreign minister and the man best placed to succeed Shimon Peres as prime

The speed of his rise has been accelerated by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, another former chief of staff, on 4 November. Mr Barak was already interior minister and a rising star in the Labour Party, whose leadership has been held alternately by Mr Rabin and Mr Peres since 1974. After the murder, Mr Peres, 72, decided to strengthen his government by appointing the general, aged 53, to a top post. The defence ministry was ruled out, probably because it would have given him too much power.

In three years as Israel's top general Mr Barak enjoyed automatic respect from the media, but this popularity may not last. Raised on a kibbutz and with a degree in systems analy-sis from Stanford, California, he has the jaunty self-confidence born of a successful 35-year military career. His political abilities remain largely unknown although observers have long noted his determination to be prime minister. Peace talks with the Pales-

tinians will remain in the hands of Mr Peres and Yossi Beilin, 47, the cabinet's leading dove and architect of the Oslo agreement, who joins the prime minister's office. The insignificance of his last job as minister of economic planning was underlined by the fact that the ministry was abolished on his departure. Into Mr Barak's old job at the

interior ministry, which he held only for a few months, goes Haim Ramon, 44, the other contender for the Labour succession. His career has been badly damaged by Rabin's death. Just as Mr Barak will be the candidate of the right of the party, Mr Ramon will seek support from the centre and left. He has, indeed, only just returned to the party after being expelled when he ran successfully against the official candidate to take over the Histadrut trade union federation.

Mr Ramon, who comes from a poor background in Jaffa, was a successful lawyer before he became a politician as a protegé of Mr Peres. He switched to Ra-bin in the leadership battle on the grounds that only he could win power from Likud in 1992. It is not something Mr Peres is likely to forget. On Tuesday, when Mr Peres read out his new cabinet list, he inadvertently omitted Mr Ramon's name. When this was pointed out, he clapped his hand to his head in surprise and said: "Oh. Haim Ramon, of course." Mr Ramon are now on the right.





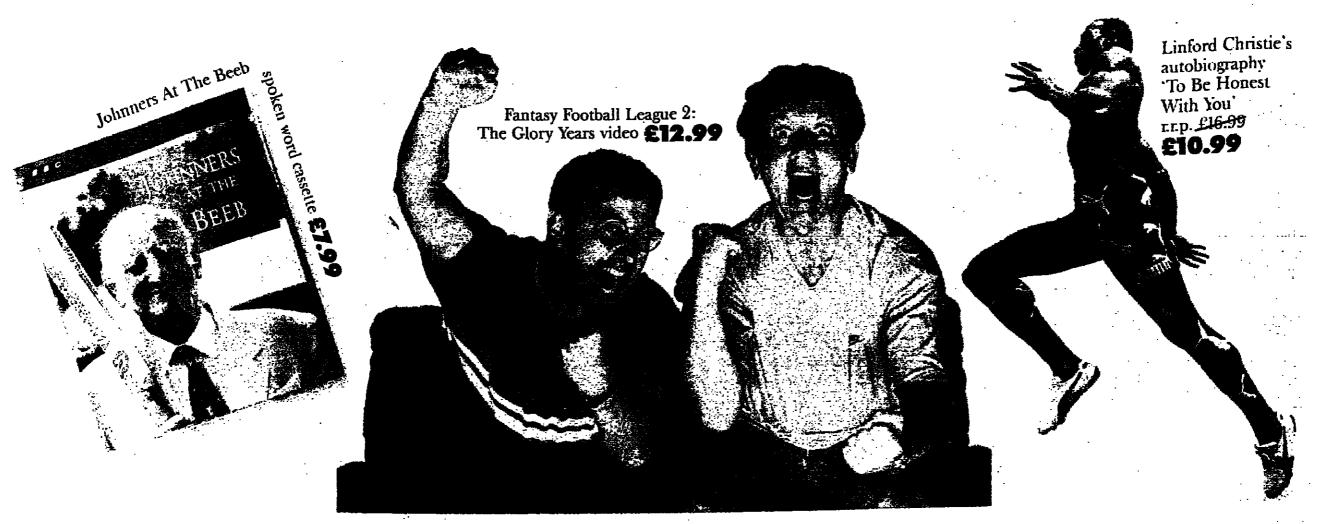
Rising star: Former chief of staff Ehud Barak (top) is tipped to succeed Shimon Peres (below)

laughed but may be worried that the Freudian slip suggests hostility on the part of Mr Peres. The message coming out of

the formation of the new cabinet is that Israeli politics is back to normal after the shock of the assassination. The Labour Party may regret Mr Peres did not take the opportunity to hold an election, which would have turned on accusations of rightwing responsibility for the verbal violence that preceded Rabin's murder. Already the right-wing Likud under Binyamin Netanyahu has regained self-confidence.

Mr Peres has also spent time cultivating the religious parties. Meretz, Labour's left-wing partner in the coalition, said it was being given a veto power over further army redeployment on the West Bank. Mr Beilin denied this, saying: "We will not give anyone veto over the permanent agreement - over an agreement with Syria or the Palestinians."

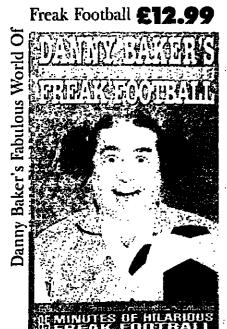
Mr Peres appears to hanker after Labour's old alliance with the religious parties, which kept it in power until 1977. But it is unlikely to be revived. Mr Peres did appoint one rabbi, Yehuda Amital, as minister without portfolio, but his failure to win election to the Knesset shows that almost all religious Israelis



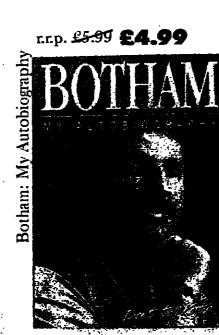
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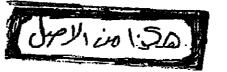


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# 'If it's quiet here, it's the silence of the grave'

Tyranny in Nigeria: Promises of democracy still ring hollow and Ken Saro-Wiwa will not be the last victim

**DAVID ORR** 

A pile of freshly printed posters lies in the hall of the Civil Liberties Organisation in Lagos. Under the heading "Why are these people being detained?" are pictures of six prominent civil rights activists: Abdul Oroh, the organisation's director; Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, Shehu Sani and Sylvester Odion-Akhaine of the Campaign for Democracy; Chima Ubani of Democratic Alternative; and Dr Tunji Abayomi, chairman of

Human Rights Africa. All six men were detained this year under a decree of the military regime and have not been seen since. Dr Ransome-Kuti is the only one to have been charged. He has been sentenced by a military tribunal to 15 years for possession of in-formation about an alleged coup plot earlier this year which few Nigerians believe existed. The other men are held

#### General outraged

Abuja (AP) - General Abacha expressed outrage at the two-year Commonwealth deadline for a return to civilian rule. Nigeria should not "allow ourselves to be : dictated to by outsiders who know very little about us . he told a conference attended by prominent traditional chiefs.

without charge, no one knows where, and have been allowed no access to lawyers. Beneath the six pictures is an ominous black square with the caption, 'Several others"

The sham trial and recent execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority rights campaigners is the most flagrant and visible abuse of human rights in Nigeria. Their fate demonstrated the contempt with which the military government regards civil rights in a country that was until not so long ago considered one of the most advanced in Africa. Civil rights activists hope the death of Saro-Wiwa will at least focus world attention on the crisis

gripping Nigeria. Rights have been steadily eroded during the last dozen years of military rule. Under a following the Saro-Wiwa execution. Most people are too decree of 1984, people may be held without charge for refect indefinitely. To this power, demonstration against the known as Decree Two, the regime has resorted more and

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two years ago, says Tunde Olug-boji of the Lagos-based Con-stitutional Rights Project (CRP). There are now hundreds of people being held in detention without charge. There is no category of Niger-ian exempt from the decree."

Those held include rights campaigners, students, union leaders and democracy activists. The numbers can suddenly rise, as they did last year when an oil strike was brutally crushed and its organisers arrested.

Mr Olugboji fears he could be taken in at any time. He carries a minimum of campaign documents. Meetings are held at secret locations. Since the execution of Saro-Wiwa, the CRP has received more intimidating telephone calls than usual. It has been judged prudent to move the more sensitive files out of

"The Abacha regime is an extremely repressive one and becoming more so all the time." says Ayo Obe, a lawyer with the Civil Liberties Organisation. You can't tell where or when the hammer is next going to fall. In that sense the criteria under today. which people are arrested, detained or prevented from travelling abroad are arbitrary. Having a high profile, as was seen with the case of Ken Saro-Wiwa, is no guarantee of security," Mrs Obe says.

In this regard, the military government has been remarkably successful: most political opposition has been suppressed or bought out. Chief Moshood Abiola, the man widely believed to have won the annulled 1993 election, is still in

jail facing a charge of treason. Only a few voices dare speak out. One is Gani Fawehinmi, a lawyer and founder of the National Conscience Party. His offices were attacked last year and he has been detained so many times that he always keeps a packed bag at his side. In it are a change of clothes, toothbrush and soap. But no shoes or book, though he likes to read:

they are not allowed in prison.
"I'm not optimistic about the future." he says. "Abacha's programme for transition to civil rule in three years is a ruse. He has no intention of handing

over power,"
Only two demonstrations have been mounted in Lagos frightened. The memory of July 1993 is still fresh: 150 protesters were shot during a peaceful regime of General Abacha's predecessor, General Ibrahim Babangida, who annulled the It has got worse since Gen- June 1993 election. It was Gen

Defence, who gave the order to

"If it's quiet here, it's the silence of the grave," says the Campaign for Democracy's Frederick Fasheun, sitting in the house of his colleague, Dr Ran-some-Kuti, of whom he has not had word since he was sentenced to 15 years in jail. "This is not a country under the rule

of law, it is a police state. Nigeria retains a vibrant press, but journalists live in the knowledge that they too can be arrested at any time. Four reporters are serving 15-year jail terms for sedition.

Nigeria has been under military rule for more than 25 of the past 35 years. A succession of soldiers have dishonoured their promises to hand over to civil rule. The only one who stood down voluntarily. General Ohusegun Obasanjo, is one of 40 alleged coup plotters facing long prison sentences. That 15 of them were spared execution by General Abacha on 1 October was seen as a reason for hope. But expressions of hope are no longer widely voiced



The word from above: Nigerians listening to a broadcast by General Abacha on a street corner in Lagos

### eral Sani Abacha took power Abacha, as Minister of

INBRIEF

Spanish MPs deny ex-minister immunity Madrid - Spanish MPs voted overwhelmingly yesterday to lift the parliamentary immunity of Jose Barrionuevo, a former interior minister implicated in covert anti-terrorist operations, clearing the way for him to be interrogated as a suspect by the Supreme Court, writes Elizabeth Nash. It removes the last plank from a barricade of political obstacles that the Socialist government had piled up to protect Mr Barrionuevo, who stepped down as minister in 1988 but remains an MP, from prosecution.

#### Egyptian fundamentalists jailed

Hackstep - An Egyptian military court sentenced 54 members of the influential Muslim Brotherhood to at least three years in jail. The court also ordered the brotherhood's headquarters in central Cairo closed.

#### The Pope condemns Mafia violence

Palermo - The Pope launched a broadside against the Mafia, using a visit to their stronghold of Sicily to demand an end to killing. But even as he spoke, the son-in-law of a local Mafia boss was shot dead in a fish market in the eastern city of

#### Burma rebel leader calls it a day

Homong - After a year of unprecedented pressure, including attacks by units of the Bunnese army, fighting with rival ethnic groups and the United States-engineered arrests in Thailand of some of his top lieutenants, Khun Sa, one of the world's most notorious drug lords, says he is stepping down as head of the Shan eth-nic rebel group in Burma to raise chickens and grow vegetables

#### Canada declares war on the gun

Toronto - Parliament in Ottawa passed a sweeping gun-control law requiring registration of all 7 million firearms in Canada. The Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, said he was proud that the move had "given us a personality different from the people to the south

#### Trial of Berlin hardliners gets go-ahead Berlin - The trial of East Germany's last hardline Communist lead-

ers, which has been close to collapse because of a shortage of judges, will proceed without any reserve justices. The trial judge, Josef Hoch, rejected a defence motion to suspend the trial of the last Communist radical to rule East Germany, Egon Krenz, and five former Politburo members for shootings of people attempting to escape to the West over the Berlin wall and at other border

#### Angry Sihanouk heads for China

Phnom Penh -King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, outraged over the jailing of his half-brother, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, for allegedly being involved in a plot to kill Hun Sen, one of the nation's two co-premiers, will leave for China today. An official said the king was agree because he had been promised King Siriundh the king was angry because he had been promised King Sirivudh would be kept under house arrest and not sent to prison. AP

### Tears for crocodile caught by winter

Thilisi - The former Soviet republic of Georgia in winter is no place for a crocodile. The reptile, part of one of the main acts in a touring Ukrainian circus, froze to death when the circus was stranded for several days by an avalanche that closed a mountain road.



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DRILL

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SCH

### **Peter Grant**

Peter Grant, the manager of Led Zeppelin, perhaps the most successful rock band of all time, was a towering personality whose dedication to Zeppelin helped make them Seventies superstars. Jimmy Page and Robert Plant were Zeppelin's front men; behind the scenes Peter Grant was their fearless protector. It was Grant who arranged their deal with Atlantic Records in 1968, then hailed as one of the biggest in industry history. He never interfered with their music, but was a \*hands-on" manager who travelled the world with his charges to ensure their financial and

physical well-being. Grant was essentially the fifth member of Led Zeppelin. While stories of his exploits have become legendary, and he was as much feared as admired, Grant was a warm and goodhumoured man who know well the impression he could make

on the nervous and unwary.

More significantly, he was regarded as the most important and influential rock group manager since Brian Epstein. Grant changed attitudes within the music industry, so that attention was focused on the needs of the artists, often at the expense of the record companies, tour promoters and agents - who didn't always appreciate his methods. Grant had seen how early rock pioneers like Gene Vincent and Chuck Berry had been treated and was determined that Led Zeppelin would get their fair share of the profits. As a result, Led Zeppelin became extremely wealthy from the sales of millions of albums and concert tickets during their 12-year reign from 1968 to 1980. Grant often literally went

into battle for them, whenever they thought they were being ripped off. He had a particular aversion to album bootleggers. and was once seen out in the audience at a German Zeppelin concert, snatching the tapes from a bootlegger's machine and tearing them up. A policeman called to the scene, armed with a gun and an Alsatian dog, took one look at Grant's enormous bulk and threatening expression and walked away.

He could be called upon to break up squabbles between the band too, separating the warring factions of Robert Plant and the drummer John Bonham, or keeping the peace with a bellowed cry of "Shut up and go to sleep!" He was like a fatherfigure to the exuberant youths as they rampaged first class

On one famous occasion at New Orleans airport a bunch of American sailors were seen giving Page and Plant a hard time, as they jeered at their hippie clothes and long hair. Grant picked up one of the sailors and demanded: "What's

your problem. Popeye?"
To Grant, the band were always "the boys"; despite his gruff demeanour he regarded them very much as family. Supporters of the band were given warm and friendly treatment. Critics were regarded as enemies, to be thrown in the

nearest swimming pool.

Most other artists regarded Grant as the manager they'd most like to have themselves, but, while he did handle a few acts associated with Zeppelin's Swansong label. Zeppelin were always his priority.

The rock journalist Chris Charlesworth, who travelled with Zeppelin on tour, recalls: People were terrified of him. He rode roughshod over anyone who tried to get in his way and he wasn't scared of anyone, police, promoters or officials. In America he insisted on putting on his own shows, with the local promoter acting simply as an organiser, so the band got 90 per cent of receipts instead of 60 per cent. Naturally he made a lot of enemies because he was taking power away from the promoters, but he was always scrupu-lously honest with his clients and he did battle on their behalf. Grant himself became very wealthy, but he was always scruffily dressed with patched elbows on old jackets."

Grant rarely wore a suit and often turned up in a first class lounge wearing an old T-shirt and a coonskin hat. His gloomy offices in King's Road in London were stocked with secondband furniture. He said, "I don't need to put on a show. It's all bullshit. The only thing that impresses people is Led Zeppelin's music. I don't need a fancy office."

Despite his gigantic presence (he was overweight for many years), his voice could be quite softly spoken, with a Hitchcockian hint of Cockney. Somehow the soothing politeness of a phone call from "G",

as he was known, only added to the menace. What he most unjoyed was "winding people up". When a nervous advertising man from Melody Maker called to proffer Grant a £500 colour transparency of Zeppelin for use in an "advertorial" Grant seized the picture and set it on

fire with a cigarette lighter. When Zeppelin trashed a Seattle hotel room, Grant had to pay the manager for damages in cash. The manager said: "Td love to be able to do that - just wreck a hotel room and get away with it." Grant took out \$5,000 in dollar bills and said: "Here, have one on me." The manager smashed up the room

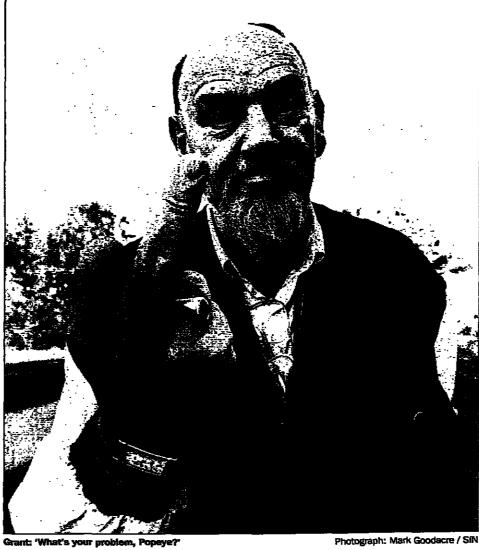
Born in London in 1935, Pe-

of his choice.

ter Grant was raised by his mother in the East End and endured considerable poverty. He was evacuated during the Sec-ond World War, and left school at 13 for a job as a sheet metal worker. He worked as a Fleet Street messenger before being called up for National Service. He reached the rank of Corporal in the Army, then returned to Civvy Street, where he was employed as a bouncer at the 21s Coffee Bar. Here he met many rising young rock 'n' roll stars, including Mickie Most, who later joined forces with him in business. Grant also fought several bouts as an all-in wrestler and had many acting roles in television plays and movies, usually playing a tough

He was lured back to the music business and his physical strength and tough upbringing made him an ideal tour manager when he worked for promoter Don Arden in the early Sixties. He went on the road with Gene Vincent, Little Richard, and Jerry Lee Lewis. He also worked with the Animals and the Yardbirds and was dedicated in his efforts to get the bands paid by promoters, without delay.

When the Yardbirds quit, their guitarist Jimmy Page immediately asked Grant to be his manager for a new venture which became Led Zeppelin. Grant was fully experienced on the American touring scene, unlike most British managers of the time who rarely ventured out of their offices even to visit their artists.



ances or single releases. He developed a mysterious, underground aura about the band, even though they were selling out huge concerts and albums like Led Zeppelin and Led Zeppelin II by the truckload. His policy, often infuriating to record companies who wanted to exploit obvious hits like Whole Lotta Love", ensured that the band were not overexposed, and they remained at the top for a decade. It was Grant who was at their side when they topped the bill at the into abeyance. great festivals, climaxing with their Earl's Court shows in

Knebworth concerts. Zeppelin broke up in the aftermath of John Bonham's death in 1980. In the years following, Grant kept a low profile, often suffering from ill-health and losing much of the Grant insisted on a strict weight that had made him such policy of no television appear-

1971, and ending with the 1979

gotiating a solo deal for Robert Plant he gave up management and went into retirement, living on the south coast, occasionally receiving rock journalists to regale them with stories of Zeppelin's golden days (and then telling them they couldn't print a word of it). There were plans afoot by his fellow entrepreneur Malcolm McLaren to make a film of his life-story, with a script by Barry O'Keefe who wrote The Long Good Friday. but this had apparently lapsed

Peter Grant most appreciated the qualities of honesty and loyalty. He was much loved and admired by all who knew the man behind the image. Elvis Presley once berated his band for not playing well enough in front of "Mr Grant", out in the audience. After a recent concert by the Everly Brothers at the Royal Albert marriage dissolved); died 21 Hall, Phil Everly presented November 1995.

Grant with a silver cane, and told party guests: "This man made it all possible. Without his efforts musicians had no careers. He was the first to make sure the artist came first and that we got paid properly."

For services to music Grant was inducted into the Roll of Honour at the annual dinner of the International Managers' Forum held at the London Hilton two months ago.

In the summer Grant went to see his old friends Robert Plant and Jimmy Page play a reunion concert at Wembley. Plant paid tribute from the stage to the man who had been their mentor. Without him, there would have been no Led Zeppelin.

Chris Welch

Peter Grant, rock group manag er: born London 5 April 1935; married (one son, one daughter,

### Robin Gandy

Robin Gandy was one of the grand old men in the international community of mathematical logicians. "Old man" is not an expression, however, that sits happily with Gandy, who until his last few months seemed forever youthful, a friend as well as mentor to his endless stream of PhD students. A colourful and complex character who, when I first met him, would arrive at Manchester University in motor-cycle leathers, and later dominate a crowd in the nearest pub with his foghorn voice, plumes of smoke and witty anecdotes, Robin Gandy had immense intellectual and personal qualities and utter dedication to his

He was born in Peppard, Oxfordshire, where his father, Thomas Gandy, was in general practice. His mother, Ida Gandy, earned a reputation for a sequence of books based on her early life in Wiltshire. Educated at Abbotsholme, a progressive public school, he went on to join that special elite at King's College, Cambridge. In 1940, his graduation year, he met Alan Turing, famed now for breaking the German Enigma code, and in 1944 they started working together at Hanslope Park, in Buckinghamshire, by which time Gandy had become an expert on military radio and His friendship with Turing

continued. In 1946 he returned to King's to take Part III of the Mathematical Tripos with distinction, then began studying for a PhD under Turing's supervision; his successful thesis on the logical foundation of physics, entitled "On Axiomatic Systems in Mathematics and Theories in Physics" and presented in 1953, can now be seen as a bridge between his early expertise and later career. When Turing died in 1954 he left his mathematical books and papers to Gandy, who between 1950 and 1961 held lectureships in Applied Mathematics at first Leicester, then Leeds. During this period his commitment to logic evolved and he developed a Mathematics-Philosophy course at Leeds, with Martin Lob.

In 1961, Gandy moved to Manchester, where the seemingly retiring but extremely as-tute Max Newman had with (now Sir) James Lighthill built up what was then the best mathematics department in the country. Newman had brought Turing to Manchester, and he selected Gandy to develop logic and start up a Mathematics-Philosophy course.

Now officially a logician, Gandy appointed new staff and invited many visitors from abroad. He was promoted to a chair in 196/, and organised the European summer meeting of the Association for Symbolic Logic in Manchester in 1969, supported as was usual then by Nato funds. Turing had gently chided Gandy in 1940 for his left-wing beliefs; now, ironically, be came to be attacked as right-wing for his support of Nato funding. These were hal-cyon days for mathematical logic, with unexpected connections being made between the principal areas of research. Gandy's own research into functionals of higher types had made him prominent, quite aside from his high motivating

qualities. In 1969 he gave up his chair in Manchester for a readership in Mathematical Logic at Oxfor the rest of his life. He was adopted by the young Wolfson College and soon had rooms in the college's fine new building in north Oxford. He occasionally complained about the "tedious beat of heavy metal" from some other room but generally found college life very

congenial.

He was responsible for the Mathematics - Philosophy course, and with John Sheperdson from Bristol brought the British Logic Colloquium into being. Dana Scott was appointed to a new chair of Mathematical Logic in 1972, Michael Dummett succeeded Sir Alfred Ayer to the Wykeham chair of logic in 1979 and Ronald Jensen came to All Souls in 1981. Mathematical logic came into its own in Oxford and Gandy's list of PhD students grew from three to around 30.

He retired in 1986 amongst fireworks and full moon at the University of Wales's retreat at Gregynog in Powys, fêted at a conference in his honour by an international gathering and most of his PhD students. He continued to publish with great vigour, and was a familiar figure at international conferences until shortly before his

He had seemed more fragile recently, but in earlier years he loved walking the Snowdonian hills, especially his beloved



dv: work with Turing

Cnicht, or, based at his cottage on the Portmeirion estate. combing the forests for fungi: one favourite memory is of him perched on top of a wall in his jodhpurs, pipe in hand and turning his craggy face to a redfaced farmer to say. "There is nothing to worry about. I'm used to climbing your walls."

He made a number of appearances on radio and television, especially to reminisce about Alan Turing. When asked about Turing's motives if he really did commit suicide, Gandy would become quite heated: Some things are too deep and private and should not be pried into." Himself, he was much loved and his generosity, tolerance, hospitality, kindliness, good-humour, irreverence, erudition and mouth-watering home-made ice-cream will be sorely missed. He would often chide himself as a "silly old owl", but then the owl is by repute the wisest of birds.

Mike Yates

Robin Oliver Gandy, mathematical logician: born Peppard, Oxfordshire 22 September 1919; Lecturer in Applied Mathematics, Leicester University 1950-56; Lecturer in Applied Mathematics, Leeds University 1956-61; Senior Lecturer in Mothematical Logic, Manchester University 1961-64, Reader 1964-67, Professor 1967-69; Reader in Mathematical Logic, Oxford University 1969-86; died Oxford 20 November 1995.

Graente Fenneck Setton; Pin Pin Loc; Paul Denis Rivfin; Christopher Garth Woolhouse; Cerys
Louise Berealord-Evans; Kuldip Singh; Greyory Martin McEpeny; Elizabeth Anne Niklas; Kamalarajan McLulyandi Chemiar; Susamne Joseph; Hugo Jonathan Patrick Cuddigm; Jonathan
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Richard Krikler; James Manthew Lang Luddig;
John Duberty; Vignaswari Saminnihan; Seymour George Stewart; Patricia Josephine Madgan; Bahatraiman Nagamuthu; Geok Hong
Chau; Sawart Singh; Idd Yin Long Mok; Jin Kong
Jiey, Christopher John Deason; Lutvrence Imam
Power; Richard Arthur Courtenay Oulton,
Peter Manner Shaw.

### Joan Francis

During its first decade on to Walter Greenhalgh - was British television. Coronation quick to tell Elsie the good news Street created a host of leg- and the pair resumed their endary characters remembered affectionately to this day. Alongside them were others who formed the backbone of a serial that revolutionised the small screen and brought into living rooms for the first time the everyday lives of ordinary folk in a Northern back street.

Francis, who played Elsie Tanner's best friend Dot Greenhalgh on and off for nine years. providing the Street's sex siren with a shoulder to cry on - and a partner in crime when it came to entertaining visiting GIs.

The story goes that during the Second World War Dot Todd and the married Elsie Tanner welcomed the servicemen at nearby Burtonwood with open arms. When the GIs returned in 1967, Dot - by then married wartime liaisons with the Canadian Gregg Flint and the American Steve Tanner respectively.

Elsie ended up marrying

Steve, but Dot's husband threw his wife out on discovering the affair and Elsie took her in. Elsie also found the stylish Dot a job at Miami Modes, the One such actress was Joan fashion boutique where she worked, until their friendship soured when Dot let Elsie take the blame for her own theft of dresses. Francis's last scenes in the programme were at the end of a dramatic court case, with Elsie being found not guilty through lack of evidence and Dot leaving the Street for

good. Joan Francis had spent much of her previous 40 years in the business before joining the serial, performing in repertory



theatre, revue, musical comedy and pantomime. Brought up by theatrical parents, T Mostoll Willi and Olive (stage name Williams), Francis often took juvenile parts in their productions. When she was 11, her mother retired from the stage and father became a director of Frank Fortescue's Northern repertory company. Francis herself Jack Gillam's company. ioined that company and another run by Harry Hanson, and acted alongside Pat Phoenix. Doris Speed and Peter Adamson, who went on to play Elsie Tanner, Annie Walker and Len Fairclough in Coronation Street. She was directed on stage by Arthur Leslie and Bernard Youens, later to play Jack Walker and Stan Ogden. It was while in rep at the

Theatre Royal, Oldham, during the Fifties that she met her first husband, the actor Jack Isherwood. Their wedding brought the streets of Oldham to a halt. Another fellow actor from rep days, Gordon Pleasant, recalls: Wherever she was, she belonged. When we were acting in Blyth, Northumberland, she insisted she was a Geordie, but no one really knew where she was from." For years, she played Cinderella in pantomime for she was in the film Fahrenheit ack Gillam's company. 451 (1966) alongside Julie After appearing on television Christie. In 1968 she appeared in the Granada crime series

Shadow Squad, Francis auditioned for the role of Elsie Tanner when Coronation Street was launched in December 1960 but lost out to Pat Phoenix. Like Peter Adamson and others who failed at their first attempt. Francis took another role the following year as the programme established itself. She acted on and off for 83

episodes until 1969 and was good friends with Phoenix and Adamson - the best man at her second wedding, to the actor Geoffrey Reed, who appeared

in Granada's series The Villains. After the Street, Francis and Reed formed a repertory company on the Isle of Wight and ran pubs together. Her other television appearances included Z-Curs and Softly Softly, and

Sped Fasih Aginar Shah, Theudone Joneph Kim, Robert James Bowker, Cheftun Patel; Godwin Oler; John Carl Hargan; Ronme Olerte Asan: Adem Maruhali: Terence Fürgelbor; Jesemy Paul Walton; Abu Mohammad Manzar Ahsan Rezo; Jonalhan Kirk Virginir Famqoise Ohidainae Pa-tricka Bonton; Charette Louis Ling Li-Tlen. Chrusce Bu Keng Low, Hobammad Raza Hya-it Harnij; Pakkia Letchumi Vengadasalum; Syel Maharak

at Harmy Frakta electroni vengedasamin; syeu Maharak.

Mohammed Akram Ramz, Maharkodi Suppayan; Riel Mercedith Karmy-Innes; Lucie Antoineite Pool, Eraily Chorlotte, Campbell, Philippa Rath Modoy, Domanic Bowen, Gragor James Fergano; Leonaka Hadippetrar Somi Altya; Simon Lopez Salzady, Stephen Michael Forsey, David Machael Swimerton; Kah Hat Wang, Donald Init Humor Keloc Ian Marcata Michael Enam Charlotte Godfrey; Alexander Bodin; Jan Jonathan Berkeley-Hurst; Erdan Musiar Chardarf; Jacques James; Robin Wittering; Abdus Samad Godamandly, Md Bodaraddon, Nigel Albes; Elean Pelekanov, Hugh Robert Norbary, Elma Demetriou; Frederica Nannaha Cognodi, Indra Rajarabana; Garry Gerard Paul Herbort; Wai Krong Wong; William David Longliek! Pope.

Wai Keciag Wong; William David Longlield Pope.
Ustant Personer, Sweds Mindeas ullushra Abedin: Nicola Sayne Elaston; Shahazadi Bilgin Muchai; Dh. Hajah Std Rahmash Pa Hji Mohammad; Dreid John Ker-Shaw Milner; Boon Klair Oag; Zaghal Ishen; Ronan Daniel James O'Donovan; Severa Abded Lishić Kharman Raze; William Robert Darbyshire; Miladan Jonathan Earwell; Catriona Amor Gardner; Samira Mahmond, Shelh Atanada Supptah; Christopher John MoNicholes; Max Campbell de Warrenne Tiscowgood; Helen Kay Milhing, Jamele Speacer Riley; Autha Jandi; Shelha Devi Venkata Rajov; Grecc Menssh; Anthony Stewart Kur Forsyth; Galatia Kourauroussi: Nigel Royston Edward; Menculer und Shinecola.

Lincoln's Inn

on stage in The Widowing Holroyd, at the Royal Court, London. When her second marriage broke up, Francis returned to

the North and landed the role of Madame Pratt, an eccentric medium, in an episode of The Brothers McGregor. Just as it seemed the door was opening on a revived television career, she was forced to retire through ill-health in 1988. Her sister, the variety actress Iris Sadler, appeared in the Granada Television sitcom Nearest and Dearest.

**Anthony Hayward** 

Joan Frances Willi (Joan Francis), actress: born 1 April 1920; married lack Isherwood (one son; marriage dissolved), Geoffrey Reed (marriage dissolved); died Manchester 22 November 1995. I ford, where he was to be based

Michaelmas Term 1995

Inner Temple

Felicity Romlind Robe: Rierve Cound Beal, Catherine Louge Buiks; Anna Mary Soubry; Andrew Thomas Moustras; Thomas Christopher Ormaniamen Fahuy; John Charles Fisher; Alexander David Whatoto Mülker; Kleber Jacqueline Cardovilicis; Annada Ashkay Milne; Albert Orapadiamen Fahuy; John Charles Fisher; Alexander David Whatoto Mülker; Kleber Jacqueline Cardovilicis; Jason Paul Si John Nacolie; Stephen Berence Housement Sothad Imman Multi; Naveen Roman Vill, Robert Mehael Reyner; Downd Elizabeth Goad, Justine McVilic; David Halldoy McIlroy; Sarah Louise Jordan; David Elizabeth Sending Martine; Lois Ekundwa Colewigsou; Jason Pold Feathenston; Jane Elizabeth Sarah Hari; Thomas Janes Allen; Charlotte Louss May; John Michael Muran, David John Benset; Malcolm Brian Sanet; Alma; Charlotte Louss May; John Michael Muran, David John Benset; Malcolm Brian Sanet; Alma; Parker McLean Mogridge, Rhys Gareth Morgan, Robert Harrison; Gerald Robert Browne; Darron Manna Whitehead; Santhi Muthussany; Torrigi Bind; Richard Ian Jerean Loe; James Alemander Heist Jackov, James Beward Rieg; Andres Donald Mackenn; Andrew Peter Lake; Nicholas Hon Kewag Tre; Jennider Clare Whester, Adam Duncan Roby; Pengrisa Edward Half; Alistar William Orchard MacDonald; Gen Hodgeits; Patricia Joan Hobbs; Renbeu Livingston; Romer John, Smill; Brigid Claire Bressin; Entona Elezabeth Davis Millem Andrews Boyd; Peter John Sorill; Brigid Claire Bressin; Entona Elezabeth Davis Millem Andrews Robert Hornes Forders, Marin John Andrew Cowler; Jos Vestron, Panilp David Marth Jankony O'l Ialloras; Richard Janes May Millen; John Andrey John Smill; Romath John John Mary Warrender; Shabenon Azints; Sally Elizabeth Robertson; Philip David Marth John John Romand Calvert; Born Millen, Beng

Grav's Inn

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

BROWN: On 19 November 1995, to Sarah (née Russell) and Mark, a daughter Saskia Isla Rose, a sister for David, Freya and India.

DEATHS

SAALFELD: Werner, aged 80, on 18 November at home, in Fetcham. SAALFELD: Werner, aged 80, on 10 November at home, in Fercham, Leatherhead, Surrey, peacefully in his sleep after a long illness, borne with great fortitude. He was much loved, especially by his wives Hilde (died 1972) and Maureen, sister lise, daughter Barbara, son Michael and their partners, stepchildren Fiona, Timothy, Julian and Rachel, grandson Daniel, grandsonghters Laura and Rebecca, and stepgranddaughter Roisin. For many years Head of German at the former Glyn Grammar School and Head of Languages, Epsom Adult Education, Family funeral was held on 23 November. Donations if wished in his memory, to Oxfam (clo Andy McDonald, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2, 7DZ) or Shelter (clo Donations Office, Sheher, 88 Old Street, London ECIV 9HU).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, In Memoriam) should be scut in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Ca-asry Wharf, London E14 5DL, tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or laxed to 0171-293 2010. They are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regime
mounts the Onem's Life Guard at Horse Guard
Harn; 1st Battalion Scote Guards mounts to
Jucen - Guard, at Bucklughtum Palace, 11. Maand prouded by the Grestadaer Guards.

### Birthdays

Mr David Blakey, Chief Constable, West Mercia, 52; Mr Ian Botham, cricketer, 40; Mr Lynn Chadwick, scuiptor, 81; Mr Willy Claes, former Secretary-General of Nato, 57; Mr Billy Connolly, comedian, 53; Miss Beryl Cooper QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 68: Mr Geoffrey Cot-terell, author, 76; Mr Patric Dickinson, Richmond Herald of Arms, 45; Miss Elisabeth Fisher, circuit judge, 51; Miss Geraldine Fitzgerald, acress, 82: Miss Susan Gilmore, actress, 82: Miss Susan Gilmore, actress, 41; Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, 75; Miss Sue Higginson, head of the Royal National Theatre Studio, 52; Mr David Kossoff, actor, 76; General

Sir Richard Lawson, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 68; Mr William Michie MP, 60; Professor Sir Claus Moser, Chancellor, Keele University. 73; Mr Charles Osborne, author, 68; Mr Graham Price, rugby player, 44; Miss Vivien Saunders, golfer, 49; The Right Rev Frederick Temple. Honorary Assistant Bishop, Bristol, 79; Mr Paul Thorburn, rugby play-er, 33; Mr Robin Williamson, rock

#### Anniversaries

Births: Laurence Sterne, novelist. 1713; Grace Horsley Darling, hero-ine of the wreck of the Forfarshire, 1815; Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnert, author, 1849; Karl August Heynett, author, 1849; Karl August Hey-mann, pianist and composer, 1852; Henri-Marie-Raymond de Toulouse-Lautree, painter, 1864; Scott Joplin, ragtime pianist and composer, 1868. Deaths: John Knox, religious re-former, 1572; William Lamb, second Viscount Melbourne, statesman, 1848; Sir Henry Havelock, soldier, 1857; Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, first Earl of Lytton ("Owen Meredith"), diplomat and poet, 1891;

Robert Erskine Childers, novelist and Irish nationalist. executed 1922; Georges Clemenceau, statesman.

1929; Freddie Mercury, rock singer, 1991. On this day: the River Thames froze over, 1434; the English Parliament decided that clergy were per-mitted to marry, 1548; Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was discovered by Abel Tasman, 1642; a frost fair was held on the frozen River Thames. 1715; Darwin's Origin of Species was published, 1859; the Smithfield meat market was opened in London, 1868; the British iron and steel industries were nationalised, 1949; Lee Harvey Oswald was shot while in police custody by Jack Ruby, 1963; in Czechoslovakia, the Communist party leader and polithuro resigned, as Alexander Dubcek returned to Prague, 1989. Today is the Feast Day of St Chrysogonus, St Colman of Cloyne and Saints Flora and Mary.

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Twilight (iv): Bonnard, L'Indolente", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Angela

Cox, "Victorian Taste in Painting (i)", Tate Gallery: Edward Chancy, "Inigo Jones and the Second Earl of Arundel: a creative partnership".

British Museum: Rowena Loverance, Merovingian Art and Architec-Oxford University (Herbert Spencer Lecture, Zoology/Psychology Build-ing): Dr Germaine Greer, "Victims No Longer: feminism and the reform

### of the criminal law", 5pm.

Luncheons Board of Deputies of British Jews Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Board of Deputies of British Jews yesterday at the King David Suite, Great Cumberland Place, London

W1. Dr and Mrs Nasser D. Khalili were the hosts. Mr Eldred Tabach-nik QC, President, presided.

#### Dinners Air Force Board

Mr James Arbuthnot MP, Minister for Defence Procurement and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon Chief of the Air Staff, hosted an Air Force Board dinner held yesterday evening at Admiralty House, London

SW1.

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, hosted a dinner held yesterday evening on-board the flagship HMS *Victory*, at Portsmouth Naval Base.

#### Sandford St Martin Trust

Mr Terry Waite presented the Sand-ford St Martin Trust Awards, for oustanding religious programmes on television in the past two years, at a reception and luncheon held yes-terday at Lambeth Palace, London SEI, by permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev George Carey. The Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster and Chairman of the Trustees, received the guests. Sir Denis Forman was the Chair of the Judges.

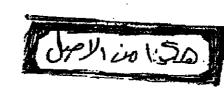
#### Royal Academy of Engineering

The following chartered engineers have been awarded Management Fellowships by the Royal Academy of Engineering to study for the de-gree of MBA at International Busi-

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### CALLS TO THE BAR

Middle Temple



Singapore airport is

the eighth busies nternational airport in the world.

Banking Deceare 27

more than last year - and a least 20 foreign

athrow, the

nternational

1992, Frankfurt

Hong Kong 22 million and

World`

Singapore: 8th

UK: 19th

# Singapore Inc: a tough little nation

Nick Leeson finally goes on trial today. It is not only his future that's at stake, but also Singapore's very reputation as a country with which the world likes to do business, writes Stephen Vines

When Nick Leeson, the rogue futures trader, enters Sin-gapore's Subordinate Court Number 24 this morning he will find himself in fairly familiar surroundings. There is a distinctly British feel about the courts. Indeed, much of the Singaporean legal system is superficially

The lawyers bustle about in wigs and black gowns, which look a lot neater and cleaner than the musty garb of the Old Bailey. The language of the courts is English, the forms of address are British and many of the laws are drawn from the British statute books.

Yet the similarities only serve to underline the differences. Trial by jury was steadily eroded from 1960 and finally abolished in 1969. A Singaporean court reporter recently explained the reason. "We've got some clever chaps here," he said. "It was all too easy for them to sway a jury."

Habeas corpus, the concept of preventing detention without just cause, has been considerably eroded in Singapore, although the constitution makes clear that unlawful detention is not allowed. Yet Singapore's most famous political prisoner, Chia Thye Poh, was detained for 22 years without ever being charged or tried. He was released in 1989 and confined to the tiny island of Sentosa, where he remains.

Neither is Singapore reticent in using the draconian powers of the Internal Security Act, inherited from the British, as a means of combating alleged subversion. In 1987 a group of so-called Marxist plotters were rounded up and thrown in jail allegedly for attempting to overthrow the government. What linked the 22 people arrested was the social work they were doing on behalf of foreign domestic workers.

Despite these chilling exercises of legal power, Singapore does not have a reputation as a society of arbitrary justice. On the contrary, foreign investors flock to this tiny island state because they admire its stability and rule of law. Singapore's government has gone out of its way to present a squeaky-clean image. This image is self-consciously on display during elec-tions when the leaders of the ruling People's Action Party clad themselves in simple white shirts and trousers.

The policies of the government are tough and the laws of the land are tough because that's the way Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's grand old man, likes it. Even though he is now supposedly taking a back seat as the "Senior Minister", Mr Lee's fears and hopes remain the guiding force of

Under Mr Lee's leadership Singapore has become one of the most economically successful countries in the world. Its unique blend of capitalism and state control has produced a gardencity environment and a standard of living unimaginable two decades ago.

Lee Kuan Yew fears that all these material gains will disappear if the controls are eased. We got one little island - 600

has managed to maintain this aura of confidence around the island by an emphasis on law and order and stability.

It was not surprising, then, that the authorities were almost apoplectic with rage when they discovered that the unlawful trading which triggered the col-lapse of Barings had taken place within Singapore's borders.

The trial of Nick Leeson has therefore become something more than a simple criminal matter. It is seen as an opportunity to show the world that Singapore has not lost its grip, that it is at least as good as anywhere else at handling such matters, that rules will be enforced, that malpractice will not be tolerated.

The trial marks the conclusion of an impressive mobilisation of

A court reporter explained why trial by jury was abolished

in 1969: 'We've got some clever chaps here. It was all too easy for them to sway a jury'

square kilometres," he told the 1981 National Day rally in a typical tour de force speech. "You unwind this, you will not drop on soft paddy fields, it is hard, hard concrete, your bones are broken and it's kaput."

To prevent everyone going kaput, stern punishment is meted out to those who break the law. The thud of the executioner's trap door can be heard almost every Friday at Changai Jail where those convicted of murder, drugrunning and some eight other crimes are hanged. Canings of vandals, rapists and other offenders, including housebreakers, are

With no natural resources and very little land space, the government has sought to establish financial and service centre. Multinational companies have flocked to Singapore, seeing it as an efficient, crime-free, orderly base from which to conduct business in some of the more unpredictable parts of the region where corruption is rife. law and order dubious, and the water never safe to drink. The government resources to find out what happened: in this respect Singapore's inspectors appear to have dug deeper than those appointed by the Bank of England.

The Singaporeans are good at sorting things out. A cohesive government machine, working hand in hand with a compliant private sector can produce the sort of results that more libertarian societies find hard to Singapore also has the advan-

tage of having a highly capable Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), a body not dissimilar to the commercial crimes bureaux attached to many police forces. However, in Singapore the CAD is part of the Ministry of Finance, which gives it immediate access commercial knowledge and information not commonly available to police forces.

Neither are CAD officers simply a bunch of calculator-toting accountants. They have powers of arrest and, according to one suspect questioned in their offices, are quite capable of being rough and aggressive. Aggression is part of the Singapore Inc style, employed against those who do not obey the rules and, in even sharper form, to those who challenge the validity of the rules.

The instinctively authoritarian ruling party has little time for opposition. The law is the veapon of choice for silencing critics; they are rarely silenced by direct political persecution. The most persistent and outspoken critic of the government was the former leader of the Workers Party, JB Jeyaretnam. In 1981 hc was the sole opposition member of parliament. His parliamentary career was dogged by legal action against him.

First he was charged with alleged irregularities in his party's accounts, for which he was fined a sum sufficient to ensure automatic disqualification from parliament. He was then disqualified from practising law. After years of trying to overturn this ruling he was vindicated by a Privy Council ruling in 1988. The following year Singapore ended the right of appeal to the Privy Council.

As for Mr Jeyaretnam, he was then hit with a slander suit brought by Lee Kuan Yew. Mr Lee won the case. Indeed he has won every case he has brought to court, including a record-breaking libel action, earlier this year, against the International Herald

The Singaporean government reacts with anger and threats of legal action against anyone who dares question the independence of the judiciary. However, it is most unlikely that members of the judiciary come up against any kind of direct pressure from the government. There is no need. They know what is expected of them, as do most Singaporeans who have absorbed the many government campaigns to make them better citizens and, as one campaign put it, to "share com-mon values".

Yet proportionately more Singaporeans leave their country Kong people living with the prospect of Chinese rule in less than two years' time. This is seen as the only solution for those who perhaps do not share "common values", do not wish to conform and are not so fearful of landing on the hard concrete Mr Lee believes surrounds the world outside orderly Singapore.

Wilkes's Tory colleagues are threatening to rebel against the renewal of the BBC charter in protest at the screening of the Panorama interview by the Princess of Wales. The row over the programme within the BBC has brought to a head Tory grumbles about the BBC, and could lead to a rebellion when the charter is renewed in the next few weeks. My pals are furious that BBC top brass kept the interview secret from their chairman, Marmaduke Hussey.

The draft charter will be published within the next few weeks by Wilkes's favourite nanny, Virginia Bottomley. She will include a definition of taste and decency in the back-up agreement to the charter, opening the way for the Parliamentary Prude Tendency to demand a ban on all sex on television, including princesses confessing unfaithfulness with Guards officers.

The whole shooting match threatens to become a ghastly BBC-bashing exercise. But the Conservative leadership can only blame itself. After all, it was the chairman of the party, Brian Mawhinney, who first put the boot into the BBC at the party conference.

silence and told her all about the

debate on the Queen's Speech. And very dull reading it must have made.

Robert Hughes, a former whip who has also suffered from public

borrowed a copy of the history of

Commons library. Caroline was accused of running a bordello in Blackheath, but a Royal Commission

Queen Caroline from the House of

found the charges were trumped up.

Mind you, in those days they did

Is life at Chequers as drear and

constrained as we have all been led to

believe in recent times? Far from it,

Minister - spurred no doubt by Mrs

Sutherland - holds opera evenings at

his official country residence to inject elements of much-needed grace and charm to summits with foreign heads

Norma Major, biographer of Joan

Wilkes can reveal. The Prime

of government. Britain's young

musicians, moreover, have been

getting in on the act. The British

of arias from, among others, La

Youth Orchestra delighted Jacques

Traviata, La Bohème and Les Contes

there were favourites from Eugene

Onegin, Carmen and Rigoletto. It is

d'Hoffman. For Boris Yeltsin last year

Chirac last month with a programme

disclosures by a woman wronged, has



Soames: full of apologies

The man with the most unenviable job in Parliament this week was Andrew Mackay, a Government whip who goes under the glorious title of Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. Mackay had the task of writing to

Her Majesty with quill pen in the aftermath of the Panorama interview to tell the monarch what was going on in the House of Commons.

While Wilkes's great friend Nicholas Soames was making an ass of himself, for which he had to apologise to the PM, for accusing the Princess of being (as one Tory MP put it) "one sandwich short of a picnic", Mackay was stumped for what to say to the Queen.

In the end he kept a discreet

now evident that the Majors have finally warmed to the old place. Indeed, a Chequers history is to be published by Norma next year.



Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, has meanwhile been busying himself on the topic of opera hats - and going to the trouble of putting down a parliamentary question to Tony Newton, Leader of the House, on the lack of adequate numbers of them in the Commons chamber. For the uninitiated, such headgear must be donned when making points of order during a division, to make members distinctive to the chair when colleagues are milling about. There is only one hat kept behind the Speaker's Chair for such purposes, leading to what Mr Greenway believes are unseemly scrambles when several MPs are clamouring to be heard. The issue is now to go to the Commons Procedure Committee.

Stephen Pollard, the lefty Fabian Society's director of research, is a strong candidate to take over the directorship of the free-market Social Market Foundation, Wilkes is reliably informed. It was Pollard, of course, who suggested in a paper that Labour should embrace selective education, although the society thought otherwise and declined to publish it.
If Pollard gets the job, nothing could better illustrate the blurring of the old distinctions between right and left since he would be replacing Danny Finkelstein, who has become no less than director of research at Conservative Central Office.

Who could credit the meanmindedness of the Ministry of Defence, Wilkes wonders? The ministry is resolutely refusing to replace former servicemen's medals that have been stolen or lost through misadventure, so Iain Duncan Smith, Conservative MP for Chingford, has discovered from a Mr Jack Conn, a pensioner constituent. At about £60 each, Mr Conn cannot afford replacements for his stolen medals, but the MoD remains unmoved in spite of the fact that this is the year we are all commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Mr Conn could not have selected a better champion to fight his cause, since Mr Duncan Smith is an ex-soldier and holder of campaign medals for service in the former Rhodesia and Northern Ireland (his father, Group Capt W Duncan Smith won no fewer than five gallantry medals). The MP is now collecting signatures for a Commons petition to be presented in the next few days.

Donald Thompson is in the habit of sending out jolly cards at this time of year to remind his friends to vote for him in the elections for the 1922 Committee, which took place yesterday. As usual, Wilkes got his card from Donald, with the message "Thompson for the 22" on it, like dozens of his friends. The only problem is that Thompson was so busy filling out the blasted cards, he failed to put his nomination papers in.

Having been to many receptions hosted by Her Majesty the Queen, Wilkes can let a little-known detail slip for those less privileged, who are never invited to join the line to shake hands with the monarch. The Queen wears rubber gloves for the practice.

This highly practical precaution was noticed by those "Down Under" when the Queen hosted a glittering reception for the revellers at the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in New Zealand. At least, Wilkes believes it was done as a precaution. She surely could not have been expected to wash the dishes afterwards.

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### Ireland must vote for the future

E amon de Valera, the towering figure who wrote Ireland's constitutional ban on divorce in 1937, would barely recognise his country today. In only a couple of generations, this land of green fields has become a largely urban society. The Roman Catholic bishops, once the nation's authoritative moral force, are beset by scandals. The birth rate has fallen below replacement level. And the terri-torial ambitions of Irish nationalism have been discredited by 25 years of IRA vio-lence. The old order is dissolving.

The Irish Republic is a young and dynamic society which now sees itself as European. Old notions of Irishness based on Roman Catholicism, republicanism and twee romanticism are being rethought. It has an increasingly successful economy and a left-wing, feminist President. The country frequently captures the international limelight, be it with poetry (Seamus Heaney is the Nobel Laureate), its football (in the World Cup) or its singing (an embarrassing number of Eurovision

The next step in modernisation comes today when the republic holds a referendum on the introduction of divorce. The need for such a change looks obvious. Most people know someone whose marriage has fallen apart but who cannot remarry within the law. The evidence suggests that marital breakdown is just as prevalent in the republic as north of the border, where divorce is legal. The leaders of the major political parties support the change. Opposition from the weakened Roman Cutholic hierarchy has been more muted than in the past.

Yet, curiously, the result could go either way today. The reason is fear. People are afraid that change is happening too fast, that Ireland may lose its sense of self, that it will become just another Western European country. The divorce debate has become the

focus of concern about what sort of place Ireland is to become. There is a fear that divorce will undermine the family, a source of stability, support and reassurance in turbulent times. People also worry about land. They are concerned that a divorce law will lead to the break-up of farms between first and second families. The land issue strikes a chord with many people. Loss of land is associated historically with the grinding poverty of earlier centuries. Culturally, a farmer is regarded as having only stewardship over property, which must be passed on intact. hopefully improved, to descendants. To give it up after an expensive divorce is a

nightmarish prospect.

These problems have been exagger ated. The proposed rules of divorce are not easy: a couple would have to demon-strate that they had been separated for at least four of the previous five years and show that there was no chance of a reconciliation. This is not the type of change that would push a couple into the divorce courts: it only addresses relationships that have demonstrably broken down. As for property, the proposals confer no greater rights on second families than they already

In short, today's proposal is merely ask-ing citizens in the republic to bring existing social realities within the law. The danger is, however, that a majority feel more threatened than invigorated by the prospects of the modern world and will vote instead for the comforting nostalgia that de Valera enshrined in his Constitution of

That would be a mistake. It is time to bury de Valera and vote for the future.

# Let students pay - it's only fair

Students are taking to the streets again.

Yesterday's protest in London, orgstudents will need to be protected against anised by the National Union of Students, follows years and years of marching about student hardship. Maintenance grants from the Government continue to be cut. to make up the shortfall once rents are taken into account. The National Union of Students claims that many students are

now skipping meals in order to get by. This is a serious situation, but the answer is not for the Government to give higher grants. It currently pays tuition fees for each student as well as providing means-tested grants. So students on a three-year course are picking up a subsidy from the taxpayer of at least £2,300 in comparison with their classmates, who left school at 16 or 18 and who get nothing. And that subsidy will help to improve their earning power for the rest of their lives. Both expense and inequity suggest there should be no return to the past.

The Government's policy of making students pay back some of the costs themselves is, in principle, sensible. Students can at present borrow from the Student Loan Company at extremely low interest rates and defer repayment until they are earning more than £15,000. In future, the Government wants to shift the emphasis away from this agency towards the high street banks, by giving the latter subsidies so that they can lend directly to students. Of course, banks will want considerable insur-

students will need to be protected against sudden and inconvenient demands from banks for higher levels of repayment.

Any form of loan like this raises problems in the way it affects student attitudes. prospect of thousands of pounds of debt hanging around their necks. It makes them less likely to go into relatively lowpaid fields such as teaching. And those who come from low-wage families may find that the idea of large debts puts them off university altogether.

One way round these problems would be to change the repayment mechanism. A graduate tax rather than a private loan repayment might be less of a disincentive for teenagers pondering college for the first time. An extra 2 per cent on your future salary, for example, sounds a lot less daunting than starting work with a debt of £10,000 - even if the sums add up in the same way. Using the National Insurance system as a mechanism to collect the money would avoid having to

establish a parallel bureaucracy. The principle is clear. So long as people are not discouraged from low-paid work or from going into higher education at all, students should pay part of the cost themselves. And the savings should go to expand educational opportunities for the 70 per cent of teenagers who never make it to university and who were forgotten in yesterday's march.

#### ANOTHER VIEW Carla Lane

#### Victim of a dogmatic law

Dempsey the pitbull has made it. Somewhere in a pitiless law a tiny loophole has appeared, and two learned men set free a dog that had gone out one morning for a walk and ended up in police kennels for almost four years. Her only crime was that she was a pitbull terrier, divested of her muzzle for a few moments in order that she might be sick.

Somewhere in the Government there sits a group of men from privileged backgrounds, who leapt straight from Eton and Oxbridge into positions of power that gave them the right to make rules and regulations for the ordinary man who worries seriously about what they might call the trivia of life. In their view, dogs come into this category. But to take away a family's dog and incarcerate it in a secret place with no communication - no sightings of the animal which shared the dramas and joys of the household - and to cast the cloud of "destruction" over it, is a calcu-

lated sin against human rights. Most grief-sticken owners are unable to cope with the rigours of court pro-ceedings. They drift through the intellectual jargon, unable to comprehend what has become of them. Then they walk from the court, harmed and for ever bitter.

Of course we must not have dogs attacking children - who would want that? But this law is not about that. It is a determined vendetta to rid our country of all pitbull terriers and lookalikes, so far more than 1,000 dead; 4,000 on "death row", millions of pounds spent on a barbaric law

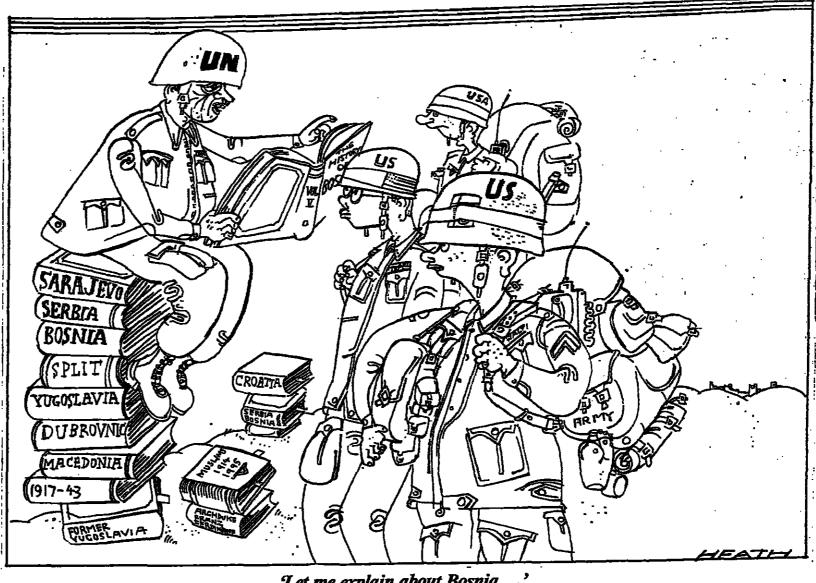
and, in the meantime, responsible dog owners walk in fear while the fighting dog fraternity has gone underground and, in the light of the Government's naive complacency, is having a ball.

We British are no longer passive about the way our animals are treated. Somewhere in the Britannic heart there beats a difference. Perhaps it is because the live export trade, having been abandoned by the big ferry companies, came out on to the streets and the public's sudden acquaintance with the lorries drove them to look deeper, and the deeper they searched, the more cruel it all became Now their knowledge is complete and

their passions are on standby. Yesterday in the court, dignified crowds sat and listened as the learned men went over the facts in Demosey's case. Right up to the last sentence it seemed that the mandatory destruction order was inevitable but then, somewhere, a voice said: "A draconian act of this kind could be the first step on the path of dictatorship." We must make our uncaring government

Those of us who fight relentlessly for the peace and dignity of animals will long remember the final words: "May I ask your honour when we might collect Dempsey?" The judge looked at the owner, Dianne Fanneran, and said: "Well she's your dog.'

The writer is a television scriptwriter and campaigner for animal welfare.



Let me explain about Bosnia ...'

### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Two 'entities' cannot make one peace

From Professor Adrian Hastings Sir: The Bosnian peace agreement is a bad one because it provides international recognition of an "entity" - "Republika Srpska" [the Serb republic in Bosnia] - which can exist only because of the systematic ethnic cleansing of at least half its population over the past four years. Hardly one of its key towns had a Serb majority in its population in 1991. The interna-tional community has blessed what has been done when it could just as well have reversed it.

That said, two very different scenarios are now possible. In the first, President Slobodan Milosevic is rewarded with the immediate ending of sanctions but does nothing to ensure the removal of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic from power and nothing is done within "Repub-lika Srpska" to implement the Dayton agreement as a whole. their homes. There is no freedom of movement across the country. Milosevic has already in the past few weeks provided massive military rearmament for the Bosnian Serbs. If Nato allows this to happen, restricting its own operations

'Misguided'

**Asylum Bill** 

From Mr Richard Dunstan

Sir: Nirj Deva, MP, is quite

wrong when he states that "most

[asylum] applicants arrive from the troubled countries of East-

ern Europe, Romania, Russia,

Poland and Yugoslavia" ("An-

other View; "Fair and firm on

immigration", 22 November).

In 1995 to date, asylum-seekers

from these countries have

accounted for a mere 11 per cent

of all applications. Nigeria alone

has accounted for a greater pro-

seeking asylum in the UK are

from Africa, Asia and the Mid-

dle East. Currently, the principal

applicant nationalities are Nige-

ria, India, Somalia, Pakistan, Sri

Lanka and Algeria. That is why

most, if not all, of these countries

would eventually be placed on

the Home Office's "white list".

Because putting countries such as

Romania - which accounts for

less than 2 per cent of applica-tions - on the "white list" would

not make much impact on deci-

sion times and the backlog of

Paean to dirges

From Mr Robert Cooper Sir: Why is Andy Gill so waspish in his review ("Money can buy you love", 22 November) of the

Beatles Anthology and, in particular, the single "Free as a Bird"?
Considering the three surviv-

ing Beatles and the record pro-

ducer Jeff Lynne were working

from little more than a fragment of a John Lennon song, the result is nothing short of miraculous.

Given the circumstances, we can-

not expect a classic Beatles sin-

gle, but it has been worth waiting

years for. As for the "overall

effect being a dirge", this must be good for business, as dirges like "Hey Jude" and McCartney's

"Mull of Kintyre" are two of the

best-selling singles in popular

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT COOPER

Charlbury, Oxford

some 85,000 cases.

More than 80 per cent of those

portion of applicants.

to policing a frontier between the two "entities" and not to enforcing the agreement as a whole, then this will surely happen. In which case Bosnians will very justifiably turn their guns on Nato The alternative scenario is that

Nato enforces the agreement as a whole and not just an internal frontier. Refugees are encouraged to return to Banja Luka and Zvornik and protected when they do so - this could be begun on a town-by-town basis. If this happens, then the division will matter less and less. In particular the Bosnian government should itself at once encourage the Serbs who fled from western Bosnia three months ago to return to their homes as soon as possible. The more Serbs agree that it is preferable to be in their old homes even though outside Republika Srpska, the more absurd the division Yours faithfully ADRIAN HASTINGS Department of Theology

and Religious Studies University of Leeds Leeds 22 November

But Mr Deva is right when he

says that this is - or should be -

a debate about "efficiency". For

it is the inefficiencies of the

Home Office, and its failure to

make the 1993 Act work, that are

the root of the wholly undesir-

able misuse of the asylum

process. Falling productivity in the Home Office's Asylum Divi-

sion, and a severe under-resourc-

ing of the appeals mechanism created in 1993, have resulted in

it taking an average of 18 months

to process cases. It is these delays

and backlogs that have created

the incentive to make an

unfounded asylum claim as a

means of circumventing immi-

Bill is misguided and unneces-

sary. Its implementation would

fully its obligations under interna-tional law. What is needed is a

Amnesty International (UK)

Sir: One way of administering a

museum admission charge (Let-ters, 23 November) would be to

make it refundable if visitors, on

departure, could correctly answer a few simple questions on the exhibits. This would reward the

diligent visitor and provide feed-

back on the displays. Or would it be condemned as elitist?

Keeper, The Oriental Museum

Letters to the Editor and include a

daytime telephone number. (Fax:

0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@

The Asylum and Immigration

gration controls.

Yours faithfully,

Refugee Officer

London, EC1

RICHARD DUNSTAN

From Mr John Ruffle

Yours faithfully,

University of Durham

John Ruffle

From Mr Hugh Murnaghan Sir: While I am delighted that

there is a prospect of normal life returning for a great many of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, I find myself feeling uncomfortable with the Dayton plan ("Dayton deal holds seeds of own destruction", 23 November). Perhaps I am a cynic, but this appears to be the continuation of the policies of moral cowardice so evident over the past four years.

I cannot remember partition being suggested as the best solu-tion in Kuwait, the Falklands or Northern Ireland in the past 25 years. I am convinced, sadly, that the agreement at Dayton is an unjust, bad peace and, thus, is no peace at all. I hope that I am wrong, but I cannot see this as anything other than the defeat of pluralism at the hands of aggressive xenophobia. I can merely hope that the Western powers are to act as more than mer midwives for this bastardised creation, so that the ordinary Bosnians, of all religions and none, can have a chance. Yours etc..

HUGH MURNAGHAN Lancaster

#### We will not accept monster turbines

Sir. C. B. Moynihan (ex-Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy) writes that The power output of the average wind turbine is set to double in the next few years", but he does not say why. The reason is that the latest turbine proposals are for much larger turbines there is no magic technological improvement, nor can there be, because the output of wind turbines is directly determined by

the swept area of the rotor. The wind power industry, having gained a few outrageous con-sents for 300-350 kW turbines over the hills of Wales, Cornwall, result in a serious diminution of the Yorkshire Moors, the Lake the Government's ability to meet District and other beautiful places, is now trying to exploit that precedent by massively increasing the size of turbines.

substantial improvement in Home Office efficiency, and a Here in Gwent, on a beautiful proper resourcing of the procedures established by the 1993 Act. hill above Caerphilly, Mynyddislwyn, there is a planning appli-cation by Sir Alfred McAlpine for a "demonstration" 1000 kW turbine that is as high as a 27-storey building and has a rotor with a diameter the size of a 20storey building. Even if all further wind power stations were Know the way out allowed to use such monstrous machines, more than 12,000

> just one-tenth of our annual electricity consumption. I do not believe the public will ever accept these thousands of turbines, visible on every hill from every hill. In principle, wind power is a good thing and we support it; but the only place where it might be practical in useful amounts is off-shore, well away from low-lying coasts, in shallow waters.

would still be needed to produce

There are plenty such sites where large groups of turbines could be deployed, and this is where the Government ought to be diverting its huge subsidies. Yours faithfully, JOHN S. L. EDWARDS Vice Chair, Gwent Branch

independent.co.uk) Letters may be Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales edited for length and clarity. Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, Onen, Monmouth 17 November

### Patents that may save lives

From Mr Andrew Sheard Sir: Your contributors to the Oncomouse patent debate (reports, 20 November) seem to miss a couple of fundamental points about the patent system:

1. A patent does not allow any person to make or use the patented invention. All it does is to enable the patent owner to stop others commercialising the invention. It does not even prevent further research into the invention. It is merely a weapon

against piracy.

2. A patent confers no right of ownership on the patented subject matter, any more than a copyright holder actually owns a book, CD or whatever containing

his copyright work.
So the Rev Andrew Linzey's lav claim to 'God's creature' ", 20 November) that patenting something living "usurps the preroga-tive of God" actually poses rather less of an ethical dilemma than owning a dog. Further, Kevin Watkins, fears

Another View: "Whose property is life?") that big business will sit on patent rights to prevent com-mercial exploitation and the alleviation of suffering ignores an important point. Even assuming that a company has some reason for trying to suppress an inven-tion that it has patented, our law embodies a safeguard against such dog-in-a-manger patentees by providing compulsory licences to force them to make their invention available to others on reasonable terms (Patents Act 1977, Section 48).

Why the resentment about the protection of novel and inventive

advances in technology? Innovation is a delicate plant, and its cultivation, especially in biotechnology, is vastly expensive. Patents give shelter by providing a much needed incentive to innovate. We discourage innovation at our peril, particularly in health-care. Our lives, and our children's lives, may depend on it.

. - .: <u>-</u>

Yours faithfully, A. G. SHEARD Kilburn Strode: European Patenting Attorneys London, WC1 20 November

From Ms Vicki Hird Sir: One of the key issues not covered in the outcry over patenting of life forms ("Government gave animal patents", 21 November) is reported concern ("Geneticists that of need. In addition to the ethical and moral concerns, surely patents should be considered on the issue of whether we actually sheep, or cows which produce obscene amounts of milk are not needed to feed the world - they are produced by companies wanting to be first in the race to make money on their "inventions".

Smaller producers eventually find their market flooded with the new produce and consumers have little choice but to buy it Sadly, turning companies' vast R&D investments towards more long-term solutions to major food or medical problems is an unlikely prospect. Yours sincerely, VICKI HIRD

Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Environment Alliance London, SW1 22 November

#### Tips are accepted with gratitude

From Ms Hermione Ainley Sir: While I entirely agree that it is iniquitous for restaurants to mislead customers, no one is obliged to eat in them and those who object to what they have to pay can vote with their feet 'Restaurants 'should abolish tipping' ", 22 November).

Like many restaurateurs, we

do not pay a full-time staff a living wage. We rely almost entirely on part-time students to whom we pay a pittance. A service charge is not included, is absolutely discretionary and is not solicited. Tips are most welcome and are accepted with grat-itude; I think I can honestly say that non-tippers are given equally friendly service and their decision to leave nothing - based on drunkenness, meanness, principle or whatever - is greeted with

good humour. However, our students know that the way they treat customers can directly affect the amount they take home, and this increases both incentive and enjoyment.

As a result of this policy, on busy days both we and our staff make money and are happy, while on slack days - not yet a thing of the past - low wages minimise the damage. I hope I am right in saying that there are people out there who would wish us to survive. One of the reasons we have lasted 10 years is our clear statement that our prices include VAT but not service.

The Consumers' Association's long-waged campaign against tipping is merely an irritant. Legislation would be a sledgehammer to crack a nut, and as nuts we would not welcome it. Yours faithfully, HERMIONE AINLEY **Edwards of Crick** 

Crick, Northamptonshire

#### Persecuted? Yah, rather

Sir: I enjoyed Mary Braid's article (20 November) on the suf-ferings of those who speak with regional accents, but there was one glaring omission: no reference to the way innocent speakers of RP (Received Pronunciation) are accused of being "stuck up". "hoity-toity", "snobbish", etc. At 2 per cent of the population perhaps they are the propulation perhaps they are the propulation perhaps they are the are they are tion, perhaps they are the persecuted minority. Yours faithfully, BARNEY PRENDERGAST Walton on Thames, Surrey

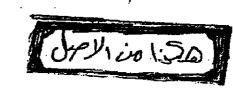
From Mr Barney Prendergast

#### When God came to dinner

From The Rev Dr T. Ambrose Sir: Sister Millicent Olga should know better than to describe God as a vegetarian (Letters, 21 November). Abel, the shepherd, was preferred to Cain, the tiller of the soil. And when God came to dinner, Abraham killed the fat-ted calf (Genesis 18:7).

The picture of the Holy Trinity waiting for dinner (the icon of the Trinity) is world famous. Yours faithfully, T. Ambrosp St Andrew's Church

Witchford, Cambridgeshire



### God help the Princesses of Wales

Ignored, betrayed, evicted, debarred - Diana's predecessors suffered for marrying the heir to the throne

Drincesses of Wales are actually Pretty rare creatures, partly because there have been relatively few Princes of Wales. Many heirs to the throne did not bear the title. Most of the few Princes of Wales either died or came to the throne before marriage

was deemed appropriate.
Things didn't start too badly for Princesses of Wales. Edward, Prince of Wales, aka the Black Prince, married Joan Countess, aka the Fair Maid of Kent, when he was 31. Princess Joan had caused something of a scandal before she caught the prince's eye by being contracted to one man and married to another, and then being made to leave the one and return to the other, but nobody seems to have held it against her. Princess Di could take heart from that.

Joan's husband considerately died at much the same time that she and the prince got together, and they thought it best to get married without too much ado - without informing the monarch, for example, and possibly without making sure that the papal dis-

pensation was coming through. Widowed Joan wasn't much older than our Di, but evidently much more mature. She must have been quite cute; when she was over 50 she was surprised on the road by Wycliffite rebels, who contented themselves with stealing kisses and set her free. No bulimia for her; in middle age she was too fat to move.

Catherine of Aragon was engaged to marry Arthur Tudor when he was one and she was two; married to him one and she was two; married to him leave St James's with him when he was and publicly bedded when she was 15.

1. save in

The spouses could only speak to each other through the bishops who translated their Spanish or English, first into Latin for each other, and then back again into English or Spanish for the process of the state o ish for the spouses. At least Di and Chuck speak the same language, though they may not mean the same thing but it

In those days, there was no Kensington Palace and Highgrove; the Prince of Wales had to live in Wales, so off the two kids went to keep what one imagines was a rather dismal court at Ludlow.

When Arthur died there a year later of the sweating sickness, Catherine, according to her own account, was still a virgin. Then Henry VII's queen died, so he suggested himself as a bridegroom for his daughter-in-law; the poor girl escaped this fate only to be betrothed to Arthur's 14-year-old brother, Henry.

Negotiations were deliberately kept inconclusive as Henry VII looked for a richer bride for his son. Because of problems related to her dowry payments. Catherine had so little money made available to her that she was down to her second-last dress long before Henry VII died and Henry VIII decided that he needed a queen. The rest, as they say, is history.

Princess Caroline of Wales got herself entangled in a religious dispute almost as soon as she reached England. She had to endure her husband's infidelities with practically all of her ladies-in-waiting, but was obliged to



The record of this Diana Spencer had had a history O-level

As the feud between father and son control of her children, so there is cer-

the "greatest ass, and the greatest liar, and the greatest canaille, and the greatest beast in the whole world", and she, for one, heartily wished him out

Among Frederick's crimes was a disastrous attempt to marry a woman called Lady Diana Spencer, fortunately averted. He eventually married the unfortunate Princess Augusta, of

whose pregnancy he neglected to inform the monarch and so they were flung out of St James's. Do we really want to know any more about this

Though George III may have married one or two people of obscure birth when he was Prince of Wales, there was no Princess of Wales. When George IV was Prince of Wales he went through a morganatic marriage with Mrs Fitzherbert and lived with her openly. The ructions this caused make this Parker-Bowles business look like a storm in rather less than a

Then he proceeded to drive his father out of his mind, which proved easier then expected. He had to be bribed to marry, and when he did eventually marry he treated his goodhearted German frau, Caroline Amelia Elisabeth of Wolfenbüttel, with contempt and derision.

Her husband's mistress made the Princess's life a misery; instead of producing the heir plus a spare, which is the Princess of Wales's real job, not opening things and holding hands and reigning in hearts and all the guff, she produced a daughter, whereupon the Prince of Wales abandoned her. She would not be allowed even to bring up her child.

After a formal separation she lived in seclusion, but somehow the word got about that she thought herself pregnant. A commission of inquiry was ordered and she was seen to be innocent, but when her husband became Regent she was ignored. Debarred from court, she returned to Europe, where she allowed herself a James Hewitt or two.

She was offered a reasonably generous allowance, provided she would never expect or make any attempt to be crowned Queen of England. This

When George III died, she returned to England, and was welcomed with ovations from the populace. But it made no odds being Queen in people's hearts. An Act of Parliament "to deprive her majesty, Caroline Amelia Elizabeth, of the Titles, Prerogatives, Rights, Privileges, and Exemptions of Queen Consort of The Realm, and to dissolve the marriage between his Majesty and the said Caroline Amelia Elizabeth", was brought in the House of Lords. Though the House was furiously divided, though her husband had treated her abominably, though his infidelities had greatly eclipsed her modest attachments, the divorce clause was carried in committee. The vote in

the House was prorogued.

Loving messages of sympathy and support flooded in from her loyal public, but when Caroline tried to enter the abbey for the coronation she was simply barred. The firm had closed ranks. Ten days later, Caroline was dead. When the citizens of London mobbed her funeral procession, the Life Guards fired on the crowd.

The people would have crowned Caroline if they could. There is no kingdom in people's hearts. If Lady Diana Spencer had known the record of this family, if she had had a history O-level. she might have learnt that the Princess of Wales is a title written in tears.

repugnant that people are so eager to sue councils and health authorities for relatively minor

matters, thus draining communal funds from the

No one would suggest that gross cases of neg-

ligence and heinous injury do not require com-pensation, but the difficulty is drawing a line

between these and more routine matters. Many litigants might be deflected if they could only get

prompt explanations and decent apologies from officialdom. Doctors are notoriously slow to

admit any error, but then they have become so

afraid of litigation that they dare not apologise. Increasingly, good, hard-working doctors under stress find themselves sued for doing their best. What may have been an understandable error

is turned into an expensive drain on NHS resources. Cases of medical negligence have

leapt up; in 1985, legal insurance cost a GP (at today's prices) £483. This year it costs £1,495. It

It is part of the victim

culture, where everyone

wants his due with little

consideration of what he owes

must be permissible to make routine errors in any job and yet we seem to have reached a point

where anyone doing less well than the best may

All this is a symptom of an idea of a society

be subjected to legal challenge.

### A case of cheap vodka at the Bar

L at the moment that is believed to be the first of its kind anywhere in the world, in which the defendant is accused of forging bar codes. Here is an

extract: Counsel: Could the defendant tell the court his name? Briggs: Yes, I could.

Counsel: Then pray do so. Briggs: My name is John Lilias Counsel: And, on the 14th of

July last, did you enter the shop known as Hateways and proceed to the check-out bearng a large bottle of vodka? Judge: Just a moment. Counsel: Yes, m'lord? Judge: Is there really a shop

called Hateways?
Counsel: No, m'lud. It is a fic-titious name, compounded of elements of Gateway, Safeway and so on, to give the impression of a well-known store without actually naming it. Judge: Why do you not wish to

name it? Counsel: It is not my wish, m'lud. It is the wish of Sainsbury's to keep its name out of the trial, to avoid being held up

to ridicule. Judge: So Sainsbury's is the store in question, is it?

Counsel: No comment. Judge: Fair enough. Carry on. Counsel: So, John Lilias Briggs. on 14 July 1995 you approached the check-out at Hateways bearing a bottle of vodka?

Briggs: I did. Counsel: The cashier passed the bottle over the bar-code

Briggs: She did. Counsel: She then said, "70p, please, love", or words to that effect, did she not?

Briggs: Yes. Counsel: What happened next? Briggs: She then said: "Hold on! A bottle of vodka's got to be more than 70p!" So she called for the supervisor.

Counsel: We shall hear from the supervisor in due course, who will testify that Mr Briggs had affixed a bar code of his own manufacture to the bottle of vodka, designed to read out a low price at the check-out. Mr Briggs is a designer of bar codes by trade, and has devised a scheme whereby he can substitute low-price bar codes for high-price ones. We believe, though we do not yet have the evidence, that Mr Briggs recently bought a car for

£13.99 Judge: If I may interpose here, might I inquire what a bar

Counsel: Jumping Jehosaphat! Well, m'lud, a bar code is an arrangement of black lines and Judge: It's all right, Mr Robert-

son, I know perfectly well what a bar code is. I was just winding you up. Counsel: Thank you, m'lud.

There is a trial taking place were accused by the supervisor of this crime .. Briggs: What crime? Counsel: Affixing a false bar

Briggs: That is not a crime. Counsel: You say that it is legal to change the price on an object before buying it?

Briggs: There was no price on the object. Very few items in big shops these days have prices on. If it had no price on it, how

could I change it?

Judge: He has a good point there. Mr Robertson. Counsel: Ah, but the bar code

is the same as a price.

Briggs: Not at all. The bar code leads to the read-out of a price, it is true, but that price can be changed at any time by the management of Aztec.

Counsel: Aztec? There is a

store called Aztec? Briggs: No. It is a fictitious name, formed by using elements from the names of stores such as Asda and Tesco. Counsel: But you do not deny



you changed the bar code on the bottle of vodka in an attempt to pay less for it than you would otherwise have done Briggs: Don't I?

Counsel: Well, do you? Briggs: Do I what? Counsel: Deny it? Briggs: Deny what? Counsel: What I just said. Briggs: What did you say? Counsel: I can't remember. Judge: Mr Robertson, why not try asking the defendant a sim-

ple question and see how we Counsel: Yes, m'lud. Mr Briggs, how much do you normally pay for a bottle of vodka?

Briggs: 70p. Counsel: You mean to tell the court you think 70p is the normal price of a bottle of vodka? Briggs: It is when I buy it. Counsel: You therefore make

an enormous profit whenever you buy vodka. Briggs: Not at all. It is not cheap to manufacture fake bar codes. It's very expensive. I probably make a net loss on my bar-code transactions.

the price marked on the bottle? Briggs: There is no price marked I am simply trying to help out Messrs Oddbottoms. Judge: Is there really a shop called Oddbottoms?

Briggs: No, my lord. It is a fictitious name based on elements of Oddbins and Bottoms Up. Now, Mr Briggs, when you (The case continues.)



family ... if only Lady

l, because the monarch hated her even more than he did his son. intensified the king insisted on taking

tainly a Hanoverian precedent for that kind of thing. Caroline did make it to the throne, however, after which she did pretty much as she liked. She said of her son, Frederick, Prince of Wales, that he was

of it. Nice family.

Once we had public services. Now They are out to get Us, so we sue them when things go wrong

### Watch out! There's a victim about

Charon Wood of Hartlepool was followed for a month by a team of private detectives. She had no idea who was photographing and video-ing her, but she became so afraid that she called in the police. Embarrassingly, it turned out to be gumshoes hired by her local authority's insurance company. They were investigating a personal injury claim, where a woman had tripped on the pavement and was suing the council for damages. They needed to know whether the woman really was as seriously incapacitated as she claimed. Unfortunately, the accident happened in 1991 and the woman concerned had moved house since then. They were following the

Sharon Wood is outraged by the invasion of her privacy. It was frightening, she felt harassed and she feared her children were about to be kidnapped. I called her to ask what her response



authority for compensation, of course. On the face of it, she has suffered at the hands of her local authority. But since it was an honest mistake, how aggrieved should she be? Some may think her story is a sinister example of the creeping invasion of snooping officialdom. But since we live in litigious times, with personal injury claims against local authorities having increased eight-fold in 10 years, there have to be checks on fraudulent or exaggerated claims where often only investigation will reveal the truth.

The boom in litigation is part of a deeper change in national attitudes. An atheistical society no longer accepts the concept of the Act of God. Now we have mastered nature, now we have rolled back the frontiers of life and death, we believe ourselves to be all-powerful. The flip side of this coin is that some human somewhere is always responsible for everything that happens. There is no more bad luck: someone has to take

Everything now conspires to urge people to sue. Since May, solicitors have been allowed to operate a No Win No Fee service, taking up cases for a 25 per cent share of the proceeds. All the client has to put up front is £85 in insurance to cover the other side's costs in the event of failure. It makes having a go a very good prospect. The Law Society offers an "accident line", so you can phone up for the name of the local expert in personal injury cases if you want to sue the greengrocer who left the banana skin on the

There are ambulance-chasing advertising posters up in many accident and emergency departments of hospitals, urging people who have had accidents to contact firms of solicitors. Local newspapers are packed with advertise-ments for solicitors touting for personal injury



No win, no fee ... the search is on for someone to sue

Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

business. In Bleak House, Dickens wrote: "The one great principle of the English law is to make business of itself."

Since the introduction of No Win No Fee, there is a new breed of disreputable agent. They stop people in the street, often under the guise of opinion poiling, and, among other questions, ask them whether they have had any kind of acci-dent recently. When they have collected a list of the names and addresses of victims, they sell them to local law firms, which will contact these people and offer them free litigation. Go for it, everyone urges.

Of course, it does at last give people much fairer access to the law. Where once the risk of suing was so great, few but the rich dared try it; now everyone with a reasonable case has a chance. But the danger is that it changes every minor accident into a lottery win in the courts. It seems to me neither a moral attitude nor a healthy one for the individual. It certainly encourages dishonesty. One council discovered

a whole family had made trip-and-slip claims over several years.

Private investigators, like the lawyers, are making a fortune out of this booming business. "The personal injury claim is an active market," says a spokesman for the Association of British Investigators. "It has doubled in the past 10 years." He adds, unctuously, "It may be the breaking down of certain standards in society that has made people less moral about trying to take money off insurance companies."

The Association of British Insurers, polling public honesty, found that nearly one in five people agrees with the proposition that: "The insurance companies can afford to pay, so it is worth

having a go."

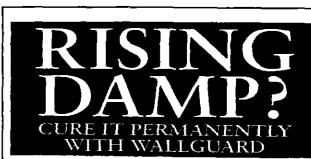
Law Society research suggests that about 4 per cent of people have an accident each year, and some 20 per cent of those take advice on compensation. Naturally, the lawyers think this is too few and that more people should be claiming more money. Are they right? I find it particularly

in which there is no risk and where no risk is ever acceptable. An individual may seek out risk for fun, in mountaineering, pot-holing or some other dangerous pursuit - but even then he expects a Sea King helicopter or a mountain rescue team to get him out of trouble. Life is full of risks, but we have become

increasingly bad at assessing and accepting them for what they are. Some 3,600 people a year die on the roads, but there is scarcely any political mileage in road safety. Yet whatever happens, however bizarre the circumstances, someone must always be to blame. So if a paving stone subsides and someone trips, it must be the council's fault. The Association of British Insurers dates a key change in our national attitude from the two great storms of 1987 and 1990: suddenly everyone knew someone who had cashed in.

However, it goes far deeper in the national psyche than mere opportunism. It is a part of the victim culture, where everyone wants his due with little consideration of what he owes. It is the Patients' Charter and the Citizen's Charter mentality, designed to sharpen up public services, which instead sent out a message that public service owes you. People do need rights and redress against inhuman and incompetent treatment, but in the public sector a brisk and effective complaints procedure would often be a better route than compensation.

There used to be a measure of pride and a sense of common ownership in the public services people used. Now people sue them.





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### MARKET SUMMARY 1995 Levr 1995 Blob 3934.00 FT Small Cap19492 235 407\*\* Hong Kong 950567

MAIN PRICE CHANGES						
FT-SE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts)						
Rises			Falls			
Price (g) Char	(a) X		Price (p) Charge (p) % Change			
Taylor Woodrow 1145	7.5	70	Powell Duttryn 4805 745 13.4			
Dorling Kindersley 528	24	48	Babcock Intl 148 13 81			
Sody Shop Intl 160		4.6	Haziewood Food 945 75 7A			
Storehouse 332	10	31	Inchcape 238 175 6.8			
Nitrumbrian Water 1169	35	31	Southern Electric 913 B2 BA			

	INTEREST RATES	
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Japan	0.47	063	2.69	4.82		
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Gold S	382.25	-270	384.5	GDP	1065	21pc	4.3	21 Dec
Gold £	24458	-198_	245.983	Base Rates	-	6.75pc	5.2	-

#### IN BRIEF **North West Water merger provisions**

North West Water, which yesterday reported a 22 per cent rise in interim profits, may make provisions of up to £100m in the second half to cover restructuring at newly acquired Norweb. The company said the merger had produced savings of about £70m this year, but analysts said failure to make provisions at half-way meant one large charge was likely at the year-end, estimated at anywhere between £40m and £100m.

Pre-tax profits of £167m, up from £136.8m, were at the top end of forecasts. Labour's employment spokesman Ian McCartney said the figure was an "obscenity when thousands faced job cuts". The company becomes United Utilities on 1 January.

#### Greenbury 'derailment' threat

The Greenbury Committee's report on corporate governance is in danger of being derailed by "powerful voices" with a vest-ed interest in seeing it fail, it was claimed yesterday. Geoff Lindey, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds investment committee, told NAPF delegates at a one-day conference in London that opponents of Greenbury must not be allowed to blunt its recommendations.

Industry View, page 26

#### Lucas chief staying put

Lucas said its chief executive, George Simpson, who was tipped as a possible successor to Lord Weinstock at GEC, would be staying with the company. The comments, at yesterday's annual meeting, was the first public statement by the company since speculation began. Mr Simpson's contract runs until March 1997.

#### Delta to expand Heathrow operation

Delta, the giant US airline, is to invest in a new multi-millionpound sales and reservation centre at Heathrow. The investment is said to include a grant from the Department of Trade and Industry, and will create about 200 jobs. The company is expected to announce next week the consolidation of its 22 European offices into two, at London and Frankfurt.

#### **Mothercare lifts Storehouse**

A strong performance from the Mothercare chain of children's shops has boosted profits at Storehouse, the BhS retail group. Mothercare profits jumped by 120 per cent to £9.3m in the six months to October helped by better stock control and fewer discounts. Profits at BhS also improved though sales were affected by the heatwave. Group profits were up 42 per cent to £34.5m. Investment Column, page 26

#### Saturn boost for Sega

Sega, the computer games company, has sold more than 50,000 units of its Saturn system, buoyed by a 70 per cent sales growth in the past month. Marketing director Noel Dardis said the system had captured 50 per cent of the market for the new-generation advanced computer games, despite being outgunned by Sony PlatyStation's £20m advertising campaign.

#### Gartmore 'bid' by US bank

Nationsbank, the US bank which owns stockbroker Panmure Gordon, is rumoured to have tabled a 280p unofficial offer for structuring action with the aim of cutting total operating costs Gartmore, the fund manager, being sold by Indosuez, the French bank. The offer would value Gartmore at £565m. by £15m in a full year. It said it

### Forte plans radical defence against Granada bid

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

The besieged Forte hotels group was believed last night to be considering radical measures to ward off Granada's unwanted £3.3bu bid. The options include a firesale of key assets, an acquisition overseas and the appointment of a chief executive to work alongside Sir Rocco Forte, who holds that post in

addition to being chairman.

Meanwhile, Granada said its
offer document could be published as early as this weekend.

to secure outright victory. The break-up value of Forte was reckoned to be close to 400p. Forte shares rose 3.5p to close

at 351p.
Analysts said talk of a radical defence from Forte was unlikely to save the group from takeover but could extract a higher price. Nat West Securities wrote in a research note: "It is our view that there will eventually be a marginal sweetening of the deal."

lished as early as this weekend.
City sources said the hostile shares and cash offer, worth 329p a share at last night's

The emergence of a rival bid remained unlikely, despite market rumours. Suntory, the Japanese drinks giant, formal-

Talk that Bass might be a bid-

der was also discounted. However, there was a separate rumour yesterday that Bass, owner of the Holiday Inn chain and Coral betting shops, may be considering a takeover bid for Ladbroke, owner of the Hilton chain outside the US and the market-leading Ladbroke racing group. Ladbroke has a mar-ket capitalisation of £1.6bn. Bass declined to comment.

It is believed that Forte may be looking for buyers for a few of its so-called "trophy" hotels, as well as its extensive restau-rant holdings, including the

way service sites might also be earmarked for disposal. It was believed the group could raise as much as £1bn from the sales. enough nearly to wipe out debt.

An announcement to expand

the Meridien chain was also thought possible. Granada had promised that it would use Meridien as a prime vehicle for growth if its bid was successful.

Merchant banks in the City were said to be feverishing drawing up lists of potentially interested parties, both in the UK and overseas. Likely buyers of Forte assets, whether sold by the predator or the target, in-

closing price for Granada of by denied that it had made, or 653p, would have to be raised would make, plans to bid.

Little Chef and Happy Eater chude wealthy individuals such chains. The company's motorsuch as Sheraton and Marriot. The Granada camp was dis-

missive of any plans by Forte to restructure: "We think that they are panicking. Just talking about sales doesn't address the essential issues. The important thing is what Granada brings getting costs out, margins up and generating value for shareholders.

The current Forte management has already launched a disposals programme - for example, putting the US Travelodge chain up for sale. It is also believed to be ready to sell the White Hart chain of hotels, on the books at £120m.

Granada is thought to have already identified buyers for the £500m worth of assets it intends. to sell, including Forte's motorway service sites, some ho-tels and stakes in the Savoy hotels group and Alpha, the air-line caterer. Whitbread is believed ready to buy the motorway sites if they become available.

Meanwile the Forte Council. which bolds a 50 per cent "gold-en share," said last night it would meet next week to discuss the bid. It plans to speak to both Forte and Granada before announcing how it will respond.

**Amec** 

rejects

Norway

approach

Amec construction group yesterday rejected a takeover ap-

proach from Kvaerner, a Norwegian shipping and engineering group, which mounted a dawn raid in the stock mar-

ket for 12 per cent of the com-

Kvaerner paid 100p a share, and after a fruitless 40-minute

meeting with the Amec board

announced that any further

purchases would not be at a

Kvaerner did not make a

firm offer, but at 100p a share

analysts said Amec's ordinary

and a large number of prefer-

ence shares would be valued at

more than £370m. Amec shares

rose 21p to 99p. Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman

of Amec, said that such a price

RUSSELL HOTTEN

pany's shares.

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battle

### Electric shock: Shares plunge after National Power and PowerGen offers are stopped

### Lang refers power bids to mergers commission

**MARY FAGAN** and PÉTER RODGERS

The Government sent shock waves through the electricity industry by referring the takeover bids by National Power for Southern Electric and Power-Gen for Midlands Electricity to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.
The decision sent shares in

Southern plummeting by 62p to 913p and those in Midlands by 59p to 918p. Shares in National Power fell 16p to 478p and PowerGen's shares closed down 21p at 540p. The decision, which was

hailed as a triumph by the National Consumer Council, fuelled speculation that US or European predators would now swoop on the two regional electricity companies. There is also a view that Southern and Midlands might seek to merge to fend off a hostile foreign attack. A spokesman for the Depart-There is nothing to stop anyone else coming in while the MMC is looking at this." Ian Lang, President of the

Board of Trade, said: "I have decided to refer the Power-Gen/Midlands Electricity and National Power/Southern mergers to the MMC because I consider that each of them raises generation and supply of elec-tricity in England and Wales."

sharp contrast to his clearance of five earlier bids, including that for Manweb by Scottish Power, which is also a substan-

tial generator.
One Whitehall source said the City had been wrong to assume that these had set a precedent as the Government had always made it clear that each case would be examined on its merits. These bids involve very difficult issues - of a different order of magnitude from the others. Whichever way you look at it, it is a major structural change which is being

The takeovers would have been a significant move towards reintegrating the industry into the structure that was dismantled by the Government before it was privatised. But Mr Lang added: "In general I do not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in linese two cases in tural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition in the industry. This will, of course, be a matter for the MMC to consider and on which they will need to reach their own

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, said: "We competition concerns in the are naturally very disappointed at this unexpected decision. We shall vigorously press the



MMC." Mr Henry warned that National Power may now find it difficult to sell 4,000 megawatts of power plant - as demanded by Offer, the regulator - because potential buyers would be nervous about the structure of the industry.

PowerGen, which has already spent almost £400m buying 21 per cent of Midlands, also

vowed to fight on the grounds that it has a "compelling business and competition case". Both PowerGen's £1.95bn bid and National Power's £2.8bn proposed takeover now automatically lapse.

One City analyst said: "Everyone is wondering what will happen to the regional companies that are left and

cluded Houston Industries. Texas Utilities and Pacific Gas and Electric. There is also a view that European companies, including Tractabel of Belgium, may attack.

ators if they are tied up at the

MMC for months." He said po-

tential American predators in-

#### grossly undervalued the company, which was beginning to see some of the benefits of restructuring after a long period It is thought that both sides accepted the industrial logic of closer co-operation. Kvaemer, whose interests range from paper to shipping, has substantial facilities building oil and gas platforms, while Amec has

management expertise. Kvaerner said yesterday that it was only interested in a akeover of Amec, not close: links, and was considering its options, though analysts said Nor-

wegian companies rarely

mounted hostile takeovers. Kvaerner has grown organically, and by agreed acquisitions. Kvaerner chief executive Erik Toenseth, chief executive of Kvaerner, said: "Having sought constructive discussions with Sir Alan Cockshaw at a meeting which took place today, I was disappointed that we were not able to make progress. While Sir Alan clearly recognised the industrial logic of ex-

our two firms, we were unable to agree on a way forward," Yesterday's share raid, executed by SBC Warburg, netted 20 million shares, and sparked widespread speculation that either McAlpine or the French Bouygues group were behind

tensive co-operation between

the purchase. Howard Proctor, building analyst at SG Strauss Turnbull, said he was surprised anybody would want to buy control or a stake in any UK contractor, given the sector's present troubles.

### Mr Lang's statement is in merits of our case with the Littlewoods plans £250m share buy-back

#### NIGEL COPE

The battle for control of Littlewoods, the football pools and retail empire, took a new turn yesterday when the company proposed a £250m share buy-back. The proposal is designed to offer an exit route for members of the controlling Moores family and maintain the company's independence.

Littlewoods also warned that it expected this year's profits to

for its chain stores and that its home shopping division was suffering from weaker sales and higher bad debts.

The share buy-back proposal seen as an attempt by the Littlewoods board to scupper the indicative £1.2bn offer for the company by Barry Dale, the former chief executive.

The board's efforts were immediately criticised by the Dale be "some way below" last year's camp which said the proposals level of £116m. It blamed the lacked substance and would National Lottery for damaging push the company deep into

its pools business, but also said debt. Mr Dale's consortium, trading conditions were difficult which is being advised by Dawwhich is being advised by Dawnay Day merchant bank, was working through last night on a response which should be issued today.

The Littlewoods proposals were contained in a circular sent by Leonard van Geest, chairman, to the 32 members of the Moores family who own all the shares in the Liverpool-based group. Dated 22 November, it states that the board is prepared to spend £200m-£250m on buying back shares from family members who may wish to sell.

It declined to name a price, a few [shareholders] who want saying this would only be de-cided after consultation with the family. However, it is likely to be significantly below the indicative 848p-a-share offer from

It adds that more than £250m could be spent but this may have a detrimental effect on the business which is currently debtfree. "It would be more likely that the group would need to make disposals to help pay for any share purchases," it says. Jim Michie, Littlewoods finance director said: "If there are the business.

out, then why don't we set up another buy-back device. "What we are saying is that, after 70 years in business, why rush? You have plenty of time to come

Advising shareholders to reiect the Dale offer, the Littlewoods board also urged Moores family members to wait for the outcome of two reviews of the business due for completion later this month.

to a rational conclusion.

It added that it had received several other offers for parts of

New team at Reed Regional

#### All Britain's contractors have seen their margins pressed down to virtually nothing this year and say they are struggling to secure new contracts that pay. Comment, page 25

### Sliding exchange volumes trigger warning at Exco

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Exco, the moneybroking group, suffered a 21p fall in its share price to 120p after warning that full-year profits would be "markedly below market ex-pectations." Last year's flotation

price was 175p.

The company has been hit hard by falling foreign exchange volumes and has already cut 150 jobs this year. Carel Mosselmans, chairman, said Exco expected to report a fall in turnover in the full year similar to the 13 per cent decline reported for the six months to June 30. He added that, since his cautious half-year report, volumes in wholesale financial markets had fallen further.

Exco has already taken re-

expected an exceptional cost of

share price, pence **ASONDJFMAMJJASON** 

£4m in the current year from the measures. It will maintain its fi-nal dividend of 6p, making a to-tal of 9p for the year. This puts Exco on an historic price-earning ratio of 11 and a gross yield of 9 per cent. Analysts downgraded their forecasts for full-year profits

from

£27m-£29m

£16m-£19m. Robert Mumby

of BZW said: "It's a bit dire.

to

**ા** ⊕

The scale of the decline in revenues in the second half is pretty devastating. It has recovery potential next year. Simon Whittock of Merrill

Lynch said Exco was suffering from two things. The foreign exchange industry is undergoing a structural change from ice-based traders [such as Exco] to screen-based ones like Reuters. Secondly, the banks are not letting their traders wheel and deal in the way they did in the past before the Barmgs disaster

Peter Edge replaced Ron Sandler as Exco's chief executive in October 1994. Mr Sandler - now chief executive of Lloyd's of London - left with a £297,000 pay-off three months after he floated the company out of administration. Exco had been part of the British & Commonwealth financial conglomerate that failed at the end of the 1980s.

### seeks more newspaper deals MATHEW HORSMAN

#### and DAVID HELLIER

The acquisitive appetite of new owners at the 129-title Reed Regional newspaper group is far from being satisfied, and more purchases are already being planned.

"Far from selling off titles, we are planning to expand," Jim Brown, Reed Regional's chief executive, said. Mr Brown and other key managers of the former Reed

Elsevier subsidiary have invested "substantial amounts of money" in the winning bid, led by US buyout specialists KKR. The group saw off four other bids, including one from venture capital firm Electra, paying £205m for the titles.

The group intends to change its name as soon as possible, probably to Prospect Media, and is looking at a range of regional newspapers that may be for sale. Unigate,

One target could be the 120 regional titles owned by United lews & Media, rumoured to be available at the right price. United's regional titles include the Yorkshire Evening Post, the Sheffield Star, the South Wales Argus and the Lancashire Evening Post, and might be worth £200m.

"Of course we would be interested if they became available," Mr Brown said. "They would make a good fit with our existing titles.

The acquisition strategy would be financed by KKR, which will have three seats on the group's board of nine or 10 members.

KKR was first made aware of the attractions of the Reed titles by Glenisla, its London affiliate, set up 18 months ago by Ian Martin, former deputychairman of Grand Metropolitan and now chairman of

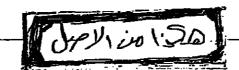
Mr Martin said that the new management "was looking for acquisitions both in newspapers and in parallel media". He discounted suggestions the market for regional newspapers was unexciting. "If you provide high-quality editorial and a creative use of

colour, even on free newspapers, it is possible to win. KKR's position is that the management team is paramount... a good team in a sector with potential is what we are looking for."

Acquisitions would be easy to finance. "We are well-capitalised, but at the end of the day, if we need money, KKR will set it up for us."

Mr Brown said his group was likely to follow a similar strategy to that of Trinity, the aggressive regional newspaper group that earlier this year bought the non-Scottish titles of Thomson group for







### COMMENT

The two bids are different from anything that has gone before because of the extent of vertical integration they would bring between generators and suppliers of

electricity'

### Lang has a powerful case for second thoughts

Tan Lang said he would look at the power bids case by case, and clearly he meant it. Campaigners for a referral of anything that Campaigners for a referral of anything that moves in the electricity industry will as a result accuse him of inconsistency for referring two bids and clearing five. So will those the supplies that the supplies many investors who failed to take account of the real risk all along that he would re-fer the National Power bid for Southern and the PowerGen bid for Midlands Electricity. Their penalty was a sharp drop yesterday in

regional electricity company shares.
It is hard to see why the market could have been so wrong-footed, for Mr Lang has not in fact been inconsistent. The two bids are different from anything that has gone before, because of the extent of vertical integration they would bring between generators and suppliers of electricity. Vertical integration was the bidders' reason for moving in the first place, because they wanted access to the billing and marketing expertise of local dis-tribution companies. Mr Lang, in a general statement of principle on electricity mergers in August, made clear that vertical inte-

gration would be a factor in his decisions. Nor were yesterday's references inconsistem with clearance of Scottish Power's bid for Manweb, which also involves vertical integration. There are transmission capacity limits on how much electricity Scottish Power can sell south of the border. It is also a lot easier to ring-fence operations in this merger than in the case of the two bids just referred. There was even less reason for

was withdrawn. None of these involved a competition problem, and the regulatory issues could be dealt with by the regulator.

Nevertheless, Mr Lang was on the defenrevertieless, Mr Ling was on the defen-sive yesterday, insisting that in general he does not believe vertical integration is inher-ently objectionable in the electricity indus-try or anywhere else. He can hardly say otherwise, after allowing Scottish Power to buy Manweb and Scottish and Newcastle to buy Courage breweries. However, the Government's hope of completing deregulation of the electricity market in 1998, by opening domestic supply to competition, has given rise to real concern about the effect of these two takeovers. Combine that with the more obvious worries about the potential for manipulating the electricity trading pool and for exploiting control of distribution companies and there is a good case for referring these two bids.

The decision does have its drawbacks. however. It may well be that the MMC agrees with PowerGen and National Power that the prospects for genuine competition will be enhanced if the bids proceed. There is a real risk that one of the Recs - Southern, rather than Midlands, where PowerGen has a blocking 21 per cent stake - will be snapped up by a foreign bidder while the inquiry is on. It is equally likely that Southem and Midlands will look at a defensive

merger. Mr Lang should therefore refer any further bids for these two companies to keep a level playing field. There is a precedent in the referral of British Aerospace's bid for VSEL on public interest grounds, when only GEC's bid for the same company raised any

#### clear competition questions. Amec – a good case for integration

That anyone would want to buy a UK con-I tractor raised a few eyebrows yesterday but maybe Kvaerner's interest in Amec is well timed. The UK construction and engineering group - like the rest of the industry - has had its problems but it has recently begun

to regain some credibility in the City.

At a meeting between the two sides yesterday morning – after the dawn raid that netted 12 per cent - the industrial logic of extensive co-operation was apparently recognised by both sides. Amee's general con struction work and expertise in building oil and gas platforms fits nicely with the Norwegian group's hopes of expanding in the UK. Kvaerner, whose interests range from paper to shipbuilding - it owns the Govan shipyard - has extensive North Sea interests.

But the sticking point at yesterday's meeting was, as is so often the case, the price. A Kvaerner offer of £1m would value the ordinary and preference shares at about £370m. - woefully undervaluing the company, says the Amec board. There is some justification to claims that Amec, whose shares stood at around 60p at the start of the month, is at last turning itself around.

It is unclear whether Kvaerner would want to mount a full bid. A large stake, enough to gain some influence and representation on the Amec board, would enable Kvaerner to bide time until the picture became

#### Exchange paralysis left undisturbed

Things appear to be going from bad to worse at the London Stock Exchange. Michael Lawrence, chief executive, had set great store by an internal strategic review, conducted throughout most of this year, which he saw as a means of silencing the growing ranks of City sceptics who have been wondering aloud about the future of the Exchange. The completed review was handed to the members of the Stock Exchange board some six weeks ago. Since then there has been

only a deafening silence.

Far from uniting the board on a bold course forward, the review has inflamed emotions and divisions even further. Two elements have exercised members in particular. The first concerns suggestions for alternative revenue streams to make up for the loss of the £60m brought in annually by the Talisman settlement system when it is

the plan for running from next autumn an order-driven trading system capability along-side the Stock Exchange's traditional quote-

driven system.

One hare-brained suggestion was that as a way of plugging the gap, the Stock Exchange should itself enter the interdealer broker market in direct competition. with its members. Apparently not content with reaction to this, Mr Lawrence compounded the problem in his recent Leonard Sainer memorial lecture by saying the Exchange might go into competition with its members on other services as well, a position not agreed with the board. This has prompted some stern behind-the-scenes rebukes; the Exchange should stick to being a service provider for its customers, and stop confusing itself with a profit-making busi-ness, Mr Lawrence's critics insist.

The order-driven issue is also contentious. Some board members fear that the attempt to tack on the new trading system to the old will inevitably mean the death of the quotedriven tradition, whereby the powerful mar-ket-making firms determine buy and sell prices. Mr Lawrence's task of attempting to be all things to all men may be close to an impossible one As everyone knows, you cannot please all of the people all of the time. The way things are going, however, he is

C&W

considers

articles

shake-up

Cable and Wireless, the telecommunications group torn apart earlier this week by boardroom strife, may have to change

its articles of association in order to fill the positions of chairman and chief executive with its

Under its current articles, the company is restricted in its

choice of top management by nationality. A clause in the cur-

rent articles reads: "No direc-

tor may hold the office as

executive chairman or if there

is no such executive chairman

the office of chief executive un-

less he is a British citizen with-

in the meaning of the British

It is believed that the com-

pany would seek to remove

this restriction, with the support of its shareholders, if it found

a preferred candidate or can-

didates who did not fit conform to the articles' requirements.

There would be ways of doing

The nationality clause means

at the moment, for example,

with Brian Smith in the role as

non-executive chairman, that

the company would have to re-

strict its search for a chief ex-

ecutive to British nationals.

problems," an insider said.

Nationality Act, 1981."

preferred candidates.

**DAVID HELLIER** 

Northumbrian bid: French company to merge its water and sewage interests in North-east after 'full-value' takeover

### Lyonnaise wins £823m battle for water group

**MARY FAGAN** Industrial Correspondent

Northumbrian Water yesterday became the first of the 10 major water and sewage com-panies in England and Wales to succumb to a bid, agreeing to a £823m cash offer from Lyonnaise des Eaux of France.

The deal follows recent clearance by the Government on condition that Lyonnaise cut. water bills in the region by 15 resents a 4 per cent increase per cent by 2001. The French over the Northumbrian shares group said months ago that it on Wednesday and a 59 per cent might be interested in making premium over the level in a bid but only when the regu- March, just before Lyonnaise latory situation became clear.

The directors of Northumbrian, who will remain with the whether this may presage a enlarged group "to achieve the goals of the merger", stand to gain more than £1.6m as a result of the takeover. David Cranston, chief executive, is the main beneficiary with his shares and share options yielding him about £750,000.

Sir Frederick Holliday, chairman of Northumbrian, said: "It has been almost nine months - a good gestation period - and what I think has been born is a fairly lusty child. Of course the hearts of the Northumbrian board maybe at one point said one thing while their head said another. But the head ruled at the end of the day this is a very fair deal for shareholders and customers.

The offer values each Northumbrian share at £11.79. including £11.65 in cash and a special dividend of 14p net. Shareholders will also retain the interim dividend of 11p to be received on an accelerated basis.

The price, which City analysts said "looks like full value", repmade its interest known. spate of takeovers. One said: "1 still do not see where all the supposed bids are coming from. The French group, which al-

ready has UK water companies including North East Water, Northumbrian's neighbour, said that there would be a reduction in jobs in the core regulated businesses to help "achieve the severe price cuts heing imposed". But Lyonnaise has also guaranteed that there will be no compulsory redundancies, with people being of-fered jobs elsewhere in its international operations, or in



Sir Frederick Holliday, chairman of Northumbrian (left), and Philippe Brongniart, vice-president of Lyonnaise

new training and research facilities to be established at

Newcastle upon Tyne. Lyonnaise will now consolidate the two companies in the north east as Northumbrian Water Group. This holding company will also act as an umbrella for Essex and Suffolk Water, which was acquired by Lyonnaise in 1989. Jacques Petry, President of

petitors the referee is stepping

outside his legitimate role and

distorting competition in the

Cruickshank involve the cre-

ation of a single general condi-

tion in BT's licence and those

of its rivals, which would enable

him to deem what is anti-com-

petitive behaviour and order it

to stop while an investigation

At present a complex series of individual licence conditions

relates to competition and he

The changes sought by Mr

marketplace."

takes place.

Lyonnaise's international water Sir Frederick Holliday will division, reiterated the commitment not to buy any more UK water interests for at least 10 years. The group has also agreed to seek a listing on the Stock Exchange by 2005 for its UK water-related operations.

Patrick Babin, finance director of Lyonnaise, will be joint managing director with Mr Cranston of the enlarged group.

become chairman and, pending approval, will join the board of Lyonnaise. The other executive directors "will continue in their current functions", and the non-executives will also be

enlarged group. Mr Babin said the deal is subject to approval by the European Commission, but added:

"offered similar positions" in the

"We know they are happy in principle with this transaction. We hope to get clearance within two to three weeks."

The Government conditions. when it approved a potential bid earlier this month, were attacked as "feeble" by the Labour Party, and as "peanuts for customers" by Northumbrian. Although the 15 per cent Photograph: Philip Meech

ulator Ofwat appear swingeing they were less than expected. The main criticism is that the hasing means the reduction in the first two years will be only 1 per cent - about 90p for the average household - rising to 2 per cent in year three and 10 per cent in year four. At the time Northumbrian said that the

This restriction unless altered, could severely restrict the company's search for suitable candidates within the industry. There are only three big telecommunications operators within the UK - C&W, British Telecom and Vodafone. One conditions were "lenient" and possible candidate for the job price cuts suggested by the reg- a "poor deal" for customers. is Christopher Gent, Vodafone's managing director, who has been on the Vodafone

board since the company started in 1985 Mr Smith has already warned that the search for a new chief executive could take at least a year. Earlier this week both Lord Young, the executive chairman, and James Ross, chief executive, departed after a boardroom row which has left

the company in turmoil. Mr Smith is reported as say ing the board would probably look for "somebody with an understanding of the industry, clear ideas and focus and the ability to act today." Industry analysts have said that to fulfill these requirements the search might have to include candidates outside the UK.

Speculation that the company was vulnerable to a takeover bid receded slightly yesterday af-ter a couple of days of stockmarket excitement. The shares moved down 13p to 453p yes-

# wider powers for Oftel

Industrial Correspondent

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, yesterday threw down the gauntiet to the authorities by delivering a powerful warning that he may not accept sweeping new anti-competitive powers being sought by Oftel, the industry regulator.

BT must accept the propos-als by Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, or find itself in the hands of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Speaking at a meeting of the Policy Studies Institute, Sir Iain said that Oftel's proposals would "stifle innovation, reduce BT's efficiency and add to consumers' costs". He added: "I am answerable to shareholders and customers. How can I be expected to go along with this?"

Sir Iain accused Mr Cruickshank of having "ambitions to become an untrammelled competition authority as well as a regulator", and of also wishing to be manager. He said that the watchdog had become increasingly preoccupied with driving down BT's market share at the expense of his other

Sir lain, whose speech came within hours of Oftel's first public hearing on the issue, added: "It is my belief that the director general's current proposals presage a highly dan-gerous new form of regulation, with broad and undefined discretionary, or absolute, powers vested in a single individual."

Sir lain, who argues that investors need more regulatory

has no ability to stop alleged anti-competitive behaviour until the case is proven. Speaking at his morning meeting. Mr Cruickshank said: Too often in the past, regulation has been after the event. stability, added: "By entering the ring on the side of BT's com-There is a tendency to try things until the regulator intervenes o do something until stopped." His proposal would also allow damaged parties to bring legal action earlier if they have been

proved hurt. Mr Cruickshank added: "The telecommunications market is different from that in other goods and services in that it is still heavily dominated by one vertically integrated company."

Wayne Gowan, chairman of the Cable Communications Association, argued that the Oftel proposals did not go far enough. Professor John Kay, of the London Business School, said that in embracing a general anti-competitive approach, Oftel would be taking "absolutely the right way" ahead.

### Vallance warns against | CBI urges prudence over tax cuts

DIANE COYLE

The Confederation of British Industry's survey of trends in manufacturing showed a further slowdown this month. The survey is the last economic news before Tuesday's Budget.

However, the employers' organisation said there was no evdence that the economy was heading into recession. It advised the Chancellor to keep Budget tax cuts prudent to avoid the need for higher base rates in future. The CBI's economists

trimmed their forecast for growth down to 2.5 per cent next year from an expected 2.7 per cent this year, but predicted a faster pace of expansion in 1997. Sudhir Junankar of the CBI

said: "I do not think the evidence suggests we are at a defining moment when the economy stops growing." After a few sluggish months demand would pick up part-way through 1996, he said.

The CBI's forecast assumes that modest tax cuts announced next week are paid for by reductions in government spending. It predicts base rates could then fall half a point early next year, at the same time as inflation declined towards the Government's 2.5 per cent target.

On the other hand, a tax giveaway of £4bn not financed by reducing expenditure would take inflation above the target. This would bring the danger of higher interest rates. Kate Barker, the CBI's chief

November's survey of industrial trends showed that the expansion had slowed down. But there is nothing in the survey to say there is a manufacturing recession," she said. The balance of firms expect-

main risk was that growth would

turn out lower than forecast.

economist, admitted that the of finished goods were more

ing output to rise during the next four months over those expecting a decline fell to 9 per cent. There was a negative balance of 9 per cent expecting above-normal orders in the next four months. Export orders were the low-

est in any monthly survey since June 1994, although still close to normal Domestic orders were weaker than export orders. Companies said their stocks were roughly flat.

months and significantly higher than earlier in the year. Big firms reported the highest stock levels. Producers of intermediate goods - and especially artificial fibres - reported well above normal levels. Ms Barker said: "This is clearly dampening expectations of increasing output into the new year."

than adequate to meet demand, with the November balance of

18 per cent similar to recent

Despite the continued slow-down, the balance of firms expecting to raise prices increased to 15 per cent, up four points in a month. The CBI said this reflected the traditional rise in list prices in January. Adjusting for this effect, price expectations

### terday on profit-taking. EMU vital to single market, says Brittan

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

Sir Leon Brittan yesterday warned that the single European market could be at risk without the present drive to create a monetary union. "EMU is now more than ever likely to happen," he said.

The vice-president of the European Commission was responding to the question that John Major, the Prime Minister, raised earlier this week about the impact on the single market of a move towards monetary union that created a division between those inside and outside it.

Sir Leon said that "even the present degree of progress towards EMU does and will continue to act as an important glue

the single market". Without it, "the strain on the single market could well become very serious indeed". Sir Leon, who was speaking

at a conference in London organised by the Federal Trust, was referring to calls from French, German and Austrian industry for compensation against European exchange rate fluctuations. The Commission, he said, was able to reject these calls with ease "only because there is an accepted macroeconomic framework in Europe, in the form of the convergence criteria included in the EMU, he said, the difficulties Maastricht Treaty, which ensures that all member states are

pulling in the same direction".

Sir Leon said that other European countries would deem Britain "crazy" if a decision were taken to rule out a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

That would "only have one certain effect, and that is to ensure that Britain loses any further influence over the process of setting up EMU". Sir Leon's concern was

shared by Richard Freeman, the chief economist at ICI. If Britain did not join the first

Sir Leon rejected as completely overblown the Euro-sceptic argument that EMU

welfare".

was the thin end of a very large wedge that would end up with a European superstate running a European budget, relegating the UK to the status of a region of a United Europe.

in eventually catching up with

core countries might "prove

insurmountable and at great

costs to British industry and UK

However, speaking at the same conference, Otmar Issing, the chief economist of the German Bundesbank, said that the

wave of countries forming attempt to create a monetary union without a political union was unprecedented. There was no example in history of a lasting monetary union that was not also a state entity.

Dr Issing warned that the removal of exchange rate risk would make it more attractive for member states of a monetary union to borrow.

A new agreement was necessary between those countries embarking on EMU to enforce

fiscal prudence. He contrasted the tight restrictions on eligibility for EMU

with the lepient "excessive deficits" provision of the Maastricht Treaty.



Storm warning: Sir lain criticises watchdog's ambitions

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by Magnus Grimond

### Cost control boosts Storehouse

Storehouse: at a glance

Market value: £1.4bm, share price 332p.

Storehouse has had its share of prob- performers. Up another 10p to 332p lems in the past, but the BhS and Mothercare group is now looking in better shape than many of its rivals on the high

Yesterday the company turned in another good performance with interim results above most expectations. Pretax profits for the six months to October were up a thumping 42 per cent to

Mothercare more than doubled profits to £9.3m and BhS edged up 10 per cent. Even Blazer, the small chain of upmarket clothing stores, is threatening to make money.

The foundation of Storehouse's success thus far has been chief executive Keith Edelman's focus on the nuts and bolts of retailing. All chains are concentrating on building margins rather than chasing sales. More attention is being paid to better buying, thus preventing costly end-of-season markdowns. The supplier base is being pruned and costs tightly controlled.

Management time is also being concentrated on fewer formats. One Up. the lower-priced format born of some of the more downmarket branches of BhS, was the latest to go. It was sold to Associated British Foods for £1.2m in June.

It is significant, however, that Store-house's improved half-year results came on sales that were flat at £518m. So far, profits growth has been coming from reduced costs and improved margins.

This is all very well but there is only so much that can be cut from costs. Indeed costs are expected to rise in the second half. Group sales have been level for five years now and at some point management will have to produce growth.

BhS, which accounts for two-thirds of both group sales and profits, seems to be responding well to new initiatives. The gross margin improved by 1.5 percentage points owing to fewer markdowns

Like-for-like sales fell by 3 per cent, but this was due mainly to a more stringent policy on the Choice discount lovalty scheme, and the effects of the summer heatwave.

At Mothercare, 60 per cent of the sales space has been re-designed with a new kiddie-friendly format complete with talking trees and carpets with fibre-optic lighting that changes colour. The £100m programme should be complete in two years. At Blazer, three of the poorly-located stores will close.

Storehouse shares have trebled over the last five years and risen by 50 per cent this year alone. Along with Next, this makes it one of the sector's best yesterday, and with analysts fore-casting profits of £110m for the full year, the shares are on a forward rating of 19. This is high, but there should still be more growth to come.

#### Babcock returns to its old form

Babcock International has had a richly chequered past. Sorting out the onetime boiler-making to dockyard munagement group defeated Lord King, Jeff Whalley and Tony Gartland, three of the stock market's chosen people in the 1980s. Now almost two years into another recovery programme un-der new management, Babcock already seems to be returning to its old form.

Interim results were never going to inspire and the fall in underlying pretax profits from £2.83m to £2.18m before exceptionals reported yesterday duly lived up to the low expectations. But an interim dividend of 1.25p, the first for three years, reflects the confidence of management that the group has at last turned the corner.

Five Year Record 1993

Pre-tax profits (£m) 15.2

Dividends per share (pence)

**Operating profit** 

1994

1995

Earnings per share (pence) 0.1

made in September, when a 75 per cent stake in the historic boiler-making business was dumped on Mitsui of Japan for £56m. At a stroke that removed enormous trading losses, chipped in a £26m sale profit to the in-terim figures and left net cash of £33.2m at the end of September.

But no sooner had that problem been sorted out than another has emerged. Babcock's normally strong German ma-terials handling business has been pushed into the red by the strength of the mark and high labour costs. With commendable speed, management has decided that deeper surgery is needed, providing £9m to slash capacity.

The hope is that with other areas of materials handling pushing ahead a £1.88m divisional loss can be recovered in the second half, with up to £8m bottom-line benefits in a full year. The question remains, however, whether this will be enough to offset the German offshoot's exposure to the cement

cycle, now in decline, Group profits of £14m before exceptionals would put the shares at 148p. down 13p, on a forward p/e of 27. The shares are factoring in further recov-

94/95

14.9 39 35

1995

Share Price

the shares are high enough.

Shares in TLG have had a storming rise since the flotation of Thorn EMI's former light fittings operations at 115p a year ago. Although down from a peak of 181p in October, investors have still locked in healthy gains even with the shares off 2p at 167p yesterday.

dend of 1.4p.

A better picture of the underlying state of trading is given by pre-interest profits, which rose from £9.6m to £12m. This is an impressive result, given that close to 60 per cent of sales are into the commercial property market, which in the UK remains in the doldrums.

In Germany, margins have been squeezed as the economy turns down and customers move towards lowerpriced, lower-specification fittings. This should eventually help the company to take advantage of its lower cost base outside Germany to ship in product, but in the meantime price pressure continues to cause pain.

provide opportunities. TLG has already seen a 20 per cent growth in sales to Hong Kong and mainland China this year so far, with margins a fat 8 per cent. Profits of £29.5m for the full year would put the shares down 2p at 167p on a prospective multiple of 15. Rea-

Certainly, a great step forward in ery and a successful bid in the privati-"de-risking" the balance sheet was sation of Rosyth naval dockyard, which sation of Rosyth naval dockyard, which Babcock manages and which remains the backbone of group profits. Victory could secure those until 2006, but

### Bright shining lights at TLG

The £77m raised in the offer for sale wiped out huge debts built up at the time of the management buyout from Thorn in 1993, so it was hardly surorising that TLG would sparkle with its first full set of interim results as a listed company. Yesterday it duly turned in pre-tax profits of £11.4m for the six months to September, up from £4.4m before. The figures were accompanied by a maiden interim divi-

The company has built a leading position in so-called specified business, where architects or electrical contractors choose a particular type of kit, rather than buying it straight off the wholesaler's shelf. Boosted by office refurbishment and new products, UK profits have responded accordingly. Operating profits in the core home market were up nearly an eighth.

Longer-term, the Far East should

sonable value, although the 19 per cent stake still held by Investcorp, one of the buyout's original backers, could overhang the shares.

The great corporate gover-

dustry, the Stock Exchange and

They do not want the conduct

of directors to face yet anoth-

er serious scrutiny from a report

by the great and the good, in the

wake of the upheavals caused

by the Cadbury Committee, and

especially the Greenbury Com-

mittee on top pay.

The first brought a big in-

crease in disclosure and in the

power and influence of non-ex-

ecutive directors: the second

took this much further, and

made remuneration committees

of non-executive directors a

new focus of power and influ-

Sir Ronnie Hampel, chair-

man of the newly formed Cad-

bury Committee Mark II, shows

every sign of having taken on

board what Adair Turner, the

CBI director-general, calls in-

dustry's "corporate governance

fatigue". He made clear that his

with the CBI view that in some

companies - a certain amount

of deregulation of the new rules might be desirable.

The Greenbury report was

not continuing revolution.

ence on company boards.

the Institute of Directors.

### Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

### Flunkies caught between Rocco and a hard place

The future does not look comfortable for Sir Rocco Forte's finance flunkies. A successful Granada bid would see them under the command of Henry Staunton, the leisure group's finance director and one of the few people in the country

to play Eton Fives.

The game – which involves hurling a hard ball against walls with a gloved hand – dates back to the 1820s, when it was played between the flying buttresses of the Eton College Chapel. It is often associated in the proletarian mind with a censorious upbringing and regular birchings. In fact, Mr Staunton is not an Old Etonian. Rather, he went to Ip-swich, one of the less elevated learning establishments, to play the game.

The Old Etonian former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Kingsdown, was also a keen Fives player and has been campaigning for its revival (oddly it is the biggest participation sport in Nigeria. where the oppressed masses play with a tennis ball).

So how good is Mr Staunton? He has not been available for comment since the bid for Forte was launched. But his secretary confirms that he is righthanded. Unfortunately, this is a distinct disadvantage in Fives. Because of the way the court is shaped, the game is far easier for left-handers. Hence the high expectations of Prince William, should he ever recover from post-Panorama trauma.

Defence fodder for the Forte camp in the quarterly Five Star Hotel Survey which shows the profitability of London's luxury hotels to be on the up. The average gross profit margin has risen 5 per

cent to 43 per cent says the accountants, Arthur Andersen, representing a sustained recovery.
"It is likely that London hotel prices will once again

reach the heady levels of 1989/90," breezes Andersen partner Alex Kyriakidis. "All but one of the luxury hotels participating in the survey showed an increase in revenue and gross operating All but one? Which one? The cowering accountants

will not say. But the betting

is that while one hotel in the

Savoy group boasts the highest room rates at £315 a night, the flag ship hotel is the odd one out. One for Mr Staunton and

The truth is out at last. Neither the Government nor the Opposition has actually read

his birch rods, perhaps.

Administrative horrors for the London branch of the Confederation of British Industry, which has had the devil's own job in sorting out its Christmas party The employers' federation has been forced to change the venue twice (at extra cost) and is now saddled with the cavernous Café Royal for the bash on

This is because of the popularity of the guest speaker, Tony Blair. Apparently the CBI can't get enough of him and the London branch has sold 650 tickets for the party. When Paddy Ashdown went he attracted just 220 revellers.

Photograph: Allsport the Cadhury report on cor-

Take Fives: easier for left-handers

porate governance. The startling revelation emerges at yesterday's National Association of Pension Funds' conference when Geoff Lindey. chairman of the NAPF investment committee and one of report's co-authors, goes

public.
"They claimed the report had failed to address three key areas," he said of the Opposition. "Two of them were in the report. The third wasn't, but only because it has been set out in company law for many years.

An inauspicious start for the Oxford University MBA which intends to set new standards in business education by drawing on the tradi-tional academic strengths of the university. "We hope that you will be able to join us on 28 November to discover how the University of Oxford MBA is set to become a strong and vibrant force in shaping future manage-

ment," says the invitation.
One of the first lessons to learn in business is not to make important announcements while the Chancellor of the Exchequer is delivering his Budget.

### CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

### O P R A

RAILWAYS ACT 1993 DESIGNATION OF EXPERIMENTAL PASSENGER SERVICE

An experimental service is one which is introduced on a trial basis to assess its long term viability. Such services require designation by the Franchising Director under the terms of the 1993 Railways Act. The following services have been designated:

**RAILWAYS BETWEEN HEALD GREEN WEST JUNCTION AND HEALD GREEN SOUTH JUNCTION** 

1. The Director of Passenger Rail Franchising, in exercise of his powers under section 48 of the Railways Act 1993 (c.43), hereby designates as experimental, in relation to the line between Heald Green West Junction and Heald Green South Junction both in the City of Manchester, services proposed to be provided between Manchester Piccadilly and Wilmslow via Manchester Airport. 2. This designation is for the period of 5 years beginning on 12 November 1995.

Authorised by the Director of Passenger Rail Franchising to sign in

10 November 1995 STATIONS ON THE LINE BETWEEN **NEWSTEAD AND MANSFIELD** WOODHOUSE

1. The Director of Passenger Rail Franchising, in exercise of his powers under section 48 of the Railways Act 1993 (c.43), hereby designates as experimental, in relation to the line between Newstead and Mansfield Woodhouse, and the stations referred to in paragraph 2 below, services proposed to be provided between Nottingham and Mansfield Woodhouse both in the County of Nottinghamshire.

- 2. The stations referred to in paragraph 1 above are stations proposed to be opened at
- Mansfield Woodhouse
- Mansfield
- Sutton Parkway Kirkby Centre
- 3. This designation is for the period of 5 years beginning on 12 November 1995.

D C W Revolta Authorised by the Director of Passenger Rail Franchising to sign in that behalf.

10 November 1995 OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING Legal Notices



OFFICE of the RAIL REGULATOR

The Railways Act 1993 Application for Licence Exemption by CORBY RAIL SERVICES LIMITED (Company number 3014437)

Principal address of the Applicant: Friers Gate, 1011 Stratford Road, Solibull, West Midlands

Directors of the Applicant: John Merry, Michael Chaurin, Vincent Gowand, Brum Herbert Lewy The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in

accordance with section 7 (4) of the Railways Act (the "Act") 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from the requirement to be authorised by licence to operate certain networks comprised within the Corby Eurobub Terminal on the grounds that he does not consider it appropriate for the provisions of the Act to be applied to such railway assets. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed exemption should send such representation or objection to:

lryna Terlecky, Assistant Director, Passenger Services Regulation, Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST not later than 22 December 1995.

A map showing the extent of the railway to which the proposed network licence exemption applies is available for inspection at the above address between 10.00 and 16,00 hours on any working day.

Dated 24 November

London Property L'antimpluce

w Eres, 198-199 Upper I. I-Bagron, N1 1QN, 9171 236 9531

John Swift QC Charities

YOUR WILL... can belo so many elderly people who have given so much and are now in need of help themselves - with nursing

home fees or convak and in many other ways.

Please ask the NBI to show
you have you can set up a
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London W2 3PG. For Sale A BIRTHDATE Newsp

Services  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}$ 

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AND ABROAD! YES! NOW YOU CAN TAKE YOUR SAVINGS WELH YOU AT HOME AND WHEN TRAVELLING

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written in haste, under political pressure. Ever since, companies COMPANY RESULTS Abacus Group (F) 86.4m (37.4m) 6 6m (4.2m) 12.7p (9.7p)

Avesco (1)

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Chiloride Group (1)

Dastry Green (I)

Macdanaki Martin (I)

Harth West Water (1)

Powell Duffrys (1)

Thomas Locker (1)

Remidinsons (F)

(F) - Final (1) - Interim

TLG (I)

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0500 - 661388

Unusual Gifts

#### Cadbury bandwagon rolls to a halt ▲ nance bandwagon shows every sign of having the brakes slammed on, at the behest of the Confederation of British In-

have been discovering awkward new side-effects that did

they first read it. Geoff Lindey, a City fund manager who was the National Association of Pension Funds representative on the Greenbury Committee, found another yesterday in a speech to the association's autumn conference. The most important Greenbury recommendation. he believes, is that the remu-

will attend the AGM to answer shareholders' questions on pay. The corollary is that before they can justify high pay, companies will first have to spell out the corporate performance objectives at which they are aiming. Very few now do. Mr Lindey says shareholders will ask questions, focusing man-

work will focus on consolidation, agers' attention on performance in a way impossible before. Sir Ronnie, the chairman of ICI, believes that it will take at As this thought sinks in around British boardrooms. it least two sets of annual reports to see how Greenbury has bedwill give new strength no doubt to the rearguard action against ded down. He has also sided the report, which has already areas - such as smaller quoted successfully delayed full incorporation in the Stock Exchange listing rules and led to a row about pension disclosure.

But there is a more fundamental reason why the corporate governance bandwagon

4.8p (4p)

1.5p (-)

0,1330 (0 1p)

3p (2.7p)

Pre-tax £

8.71m (6.03m) 0.81m (0.25m) 8.3p (2.9p)

58.95m (59.6m) 3.54m (1.04m) 1.2p (0.3p)

28.7m (26.4m) 22.8m (22.7m) 17.5p (16p)

519m (519m) 34 5m (24.2m) 5.5p (3.9p)

10.8m (12.7m) 0 23m (0.28m) 2.4p (3p)

186m (168m) 11 4m (4.4m) 4.1p (2.6p)

On Destand Information (F) 8.79m (5.23m) -3.6m (-2.62m) -7.2p (-5.7p) nil (nil)

393.7m (348.9m) 19.2m (2.83m) 10.77p (0.85p) 1.25p (nli)

13.9m (13.8m) 4.30m (3.78m) 31.8p (31.3p) 5.2p (3p)

9 19m (8.29m) 0,41m (0.57m) 2.19p (3.14p) 0.9p (0.9p)

16.5m (14.4m) 0.75m (0.10m) 1.09p (0.15p) 0.3p (0.2p)

20.6m (19.5m) 1.13m (0.72m) 12.3p (7.7p) 8p (8p)

18.1m (16.4m) 4 0m (2.6m) 20 93p (12.73p) 2.75p (2.5p)

167m (137m) 41.2p (34.3p) 9.27p (8.35p)

-13.0m (17.0m) -18.5p (17.9p) 8p (8p)

INDUSTRY VIEW

PETER RODGERS has probably rolled about as far

as it can go for the moment. not leap from the page when Non-executive directors have exactly the same legal responsibility for stewardship of a company as executives. Yet the thrust of Cadbury and Greenbury has been to turn them into boardroom police, supervising executive directors on behalf of the shareholders. This is where the Greenbury idea of a powerful non-execu-

tive remuneration committee, neration committee chairman reporting over the heads of the rest of the board directly to shareholders, may run into the buffers. It gives the non-executives a separate status they do not have in law, and is thus an attempt to embrace surreptitiously some of the better characteristics of Continental two-tier boards without admitting they are a good idea.

As a fudge, this solution will work as long as nothing dramatic is expected of it. Such reforms are fine for well-run companies of the type in which Sir Ronnie and Sir Adrian Cadbury have spent their lives, and may even produce an improvement in the general perfor-mance and accountability of British business.

But they are more than likely to break down where they are most needed - at companies un-

der strain, where boards are in disarray and businesses have problems.

Even at Cable & Wireless. hardly a corporate basket case. the supposedly influential nonexecutives do not appear to have grasped the extent of the row on the board until it was too late.

Perhaps the underlying reason business does not want to stir the corporate governance pot again is that the logical next step from the Cadbury and Greenbury reports would be to give legal reality to their attempts to create a special type of non-executive director-cumpolice officer.

That might well lead to the imposition on an unwilling industry of a British version of the Continental two-tier boards. Business and the City are adamantly opposed to these, believing that they slow decisions and blur accountability between owners and managers.

The Labour Party recently came close, with a proposal that remuneration committees should contain a wholly independent director representing shareholders or employees. With an election looming, it is no wonder that business wants to put corporate governance on the back burner.

This is a serious tactical mistake, as Mr Lindey pointed out yesterday. Anything less than to-tal enthusiasm for the present voluntary methods of improving the conduct of boards could provoke legislation and that could bring anything - even twotier boards.

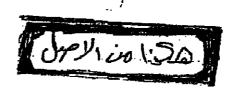
IN BRIEF

### Wace bags Ferry Pickering for £26m

Wace, the labelling and printing group, yesterday announced an agreed £26.2m offer for Ferry Pickering worth 195p a share. Wace said Ferry Pickering's range of specialist packaging and folding cartons would enhance its product range and enable the enlarged group to provide a better service to clients. Wace also said economic slowdown had hit activity in July and August. Although trading in subsequent months had improved, it had so far not been sufficient to compensate.

#### Powell Duffryn shares slump on warning

Shares in Powell Duffryn slumped 74.5p to 480.5p after the transport to engineering conglomerate warned that its second half would be hit by trading problems. Pressure on car fuel margins as well as the unpredictable impact of the winter weather on oil and gas distribution would temper what should otherwise be a sound performance. First-half figures slumped to a £13m loss from a profit of £17m last time, weighed down by £30m in exceptional charges.



FT-SE 350 1788.3 -13.1 SEAQ VOLUME 769,4m shares, 30,471 bargains Gilts Index





Inchcape heads for Footsie exit as shares slide further Inchcape, the international trading group, suffered another torrid session. The shares crashed 17.5p to 238p (after

226.5p) as worries about the group's trading performance and the possibility of a dividend cut increased. A series of profit downgradings have unhinged the share price. On Wednesday NatWest Securities cut its profit forecast by £10m to £140m. The shares have fallen 59p this week and from 444.5p a year ago. They were 622p in 1993. The slide means the shares will almost certainly be kicked out of the FT-SE 100 in-

dex when it is reviewed next Inchcape has been hit by the strength of the Japanese yen and the slowdown in the Japanese car industry. Its interim profits reversed from

British Airways, was appointed chairman, to take over from the retiring Sir David Plastow

at the end of the year. Inchcape was for long re-garded as an international trader in stock market classifications. But the Stock Exchange, to the company's dismay, decided it should be re-garded as a motor trader al-though much of its income comes from other operations.

As Inchcape willed, Vodafone, Wednesday's casualty, staged a modest recovery, up 6.5p to 222.5p. With most of the selling coming from the US, the cellular radio group's ap-parent strength probably stemmed from the absence of US activity with New York



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

makers were wrong footed,

tional Grid fell 4p to 224p.

Burmah Castrel, the oil

whip. Panmure Gordon low-ered its expectations for the

getting to the market. The lat-NP slumped 16p to 478p and PG 21p to 540p. Their targets were hit even harder, Midland est short circuit on the electricity pitch was the other major factor. fell 59p to 918p and Southern 62p to 913p. Other electrici-ties weakened, Newcomer Na-In late trading Ian Lang.

Trade and Industry Secretary, produced a Littlechild-style shock when he announced that the £1.95bn offer by PowerGen for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8m shot for Southern Electric would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Following the clearance of Scot-The New York silence was tish Power's acquisition of one of the influences behind a Manweb, the market had extish Power's acquisition of ed French bid, added 35p to 1,169p. Ferry Pickering, the packaging group, stretched 24p to 194p as Wace, with a 195p offer, emerged as the

predator.
Forte put on 4.5p to 351p and Granada rose 4p to 653p. Cable and Wireless lost 13p to 453p as speculators snatched profits. The group is still seen to be a takeover candidate. Babcock International's problems in Germany left the shares 13p off at 148p.

Newcomer Tom Cobleigh, a pubs operator, closed at 191p from a 150p flotation level. Dorling Kindersley, the pub-lisher, rose 24p to 528p as the group, was another under the Microsoft overhang was reprompted a £19m cut in next moved when the shares were placed by Cazenove and Gold-

year's group estimate to £154.6m. The shares lost 21p man Sachs at 597p.
Lloyds Chemists shaded 2p
to 248p as 7.1 million shares

British Sky Broadcasting rose 5p to 393p following in-vestment meetings in Edin-burgh; Scottish & Newcastle

was lowered op to 622p as Kleinwort Benson said sell. Amec, the builder, jumped 21p to 99p with SBC Warburg mounting a dawn raid at 100p for 20 million shares. The buyer later emerged as Norway's

Kvaerner group.

Polar, an electronics maker, gained 52p to 430p following a bid from rivals Abacus, little

changed at 279p.
London Clubs, the casino group, was firm at 409p. There is talk today's interim profits talk today's interim profits. could be as high as £30m, the figure some analysis expect for

BTG, which was originally created 15 years ago by the merger of two Government research organisations, rose 28p to 618p. The shares were floated at 225p in the sum-mer. The group, which nurses a wide range of intriguing de-

velopments, will remain as a 5.5 per cent shareholder in Peptide Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutic group, which is coming to market through a placing at 220p. The issue is expected to attract a strong and. Dealings are due to

goods and stationery group rumoured to be near a ma the year.

Northamber, the computer group, rose 12p to 254p ahead of next week's figures but Waverley Mining fell 4p to 980 on the plan to take full constant.

and the slowdown in the Japanese car industry. Its in terim profits reversed from £125.5m to £18.6m.  Earlier this month Sir Comin Marshall, chairman of the slowdown in the Japanese car industry. Its interim profits reversed from £125.5m to £18.6m.	one of the influences behind a manweb, the market marged performance which left the FT-SE 100 index down the FT-SE 100 index down be wave through.	sition of £154.6m. The shares lost 21p man Sachs t had ex- to 965p.  Lloyds C s' bids to Legal & General continued to 248p as to gather takeover support, up turmoil, 11p to 706p while Northum- at 244p. Th	Themists shaded 2p ahead of next week's figures to the figures of the million shares but Waverley Mining fell 4p to 3 shares came from trol of the Monktonhall coal shares came from the shares came f	Holdings Pension Fund. It has picked up more than million shares lifting its stake to 4.2 per cent. The shares beld at 8.5p.
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### unit trusts/data

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### Dwyer steps in as the lucky man

**GREG WOOD** 

The most sought-after square yard of leather in racing was finally filled yesterday when Mark Dwyer was booked to ride One Man, the hot favourite, in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury tomorrow. Dwyer became available when Jodami. the 1993 Gold Cup winner, was unexpectedly scratched from the race, and with so many other leading jockeys ci-ther injured, suspended or spoken for, his switch to One Man

was almost a formality. Gordon Richards, One Man's trainer, deserves some complimentary shares from British Telecom after fielding calls in recent days from every member of the weighing room, up to, and probably including, the clerk of the scales. Dwyer, Beaumont said: "We always

the experience and talent to slip smoothly into the boots of Tony don't want to give him too hard a race at this stage of the sea-Dobbin, sidelined by a fall on Monday. The grey is now as short as 11-8 to follow up his success in last year's Hennessy at Newbury tomorrow.

Peter Beaumont's reasoning in deciding to bypass the Hennessy with Jodami will give considerable encouragement to One

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Steadfast Elite (Bangor 1.20) NB: Be Warned (Southwell 2.40)

Man's backers. Jodami was beaten seven lengths by One Man when both made their seasonal debuts at Ayr two weeks ago but, despite being 4lb better at the weights tomorrow, will head for the Hinchliffe Champion Chase

son. Realistically, we couldn't beat One Man at the weights, though it might be different at level weights, and we have decided to go for something a little bit quieter." His opinion is shared by

Dwyer, a Hennessy winner on Galway Blaze in 1985 and second on Jodami three years ago. "Spare rides don't come much better," he said yesterday. "I thought One Man would win the Hennessy when I finished second to him up at Ayr. I sat on him for the first time today and had a canter on him this morning. I've seen a few videos of his wins and it is just a case of trying to familiarise oneself with him as best one can."

One Man is 11-8 favourite (from 6-4) with William Hill for tomorrow's race. They then bet: 9-2 Rough Quest, 5-1 Earth though, is one of the few with had the option of Kelso and we Summit, 7-1 Couldn't Be Better, a fortnight ago.

One better: Mark Dwyer, from the disadvantage point of the pursuing Jodami, watches his Hennessy Gold Cup partner, One Man, jumping to victory at Ayr two weeks ago

Photograph: Dan Abraham/Sporting Life

10-1 Black Humour, 12-1 Young Hustler, 14-1 bar.

As if the hints about One Man's chance were not enough. Richards provided further eviat Carlisle yesterday when another grey chaser from Penrith, The Grey Monk, won his second race over fences every bit as impressively as his first, at Ayr

He already seems certain to be a serious contender at the Festival next March, but the same may not be true of Callisoe Bay, one of last year's best dence of his stable's well-being novice hurdlers. Oliver Sherwood's highly-regarded young chaser atoned somewhat for a fall on his fencing debut at ner and a 12-1 chance for next Cheltenham when winning at Uttoxeter yesterday, but was far from fluent.

SOUTHWELL

GOING: Standard.

SIS

12.20 Barrel Of Hope 12.45 Berge 1.10 Blue

Adelaide 1.40 Montague Dawson 2.10 Home-and 2.40 Be Warned 3.10 Dragonjoy 3.40 Ijab

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Uf., 71, 1m, 1m: 3f - mside; rest - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f.

Fibresand surface; left-hard sharp, oval course.

Rencecourse to 3 males south-cast of town and 6 miles west.

Newark at Rolleston. Rolleston Junction adjoins the course. Al

MISSION: Club 512; Tattersalls 56 (OAP members of course.)

ramond Chili S4, accompanied uniter-16s free). CAR PARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Sarest (visor) (12.20); Aljaz & Light Movement (12.45); Rawl & Welsh Melody (2.10); La Finale (3.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESANCE RUNNERS: Mislemant (2.40) has been sent 332 miles by A Newcombe from Yaruscombe, Devon.

12.20 FARMERS WEEKLY HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,550 added 7f (AW)

00021: SHARREL OF HOPE (29) (CD) | L Eye 3 8 12 ... | K Fellon 5 145406 SHARRE (8) (D) M Carracho 3 8 11 ... | L Charmock 10 205055 OCHOS ROOS (49) (D) B Rothwell 4 8 8 ... | L Quinn 4 550505 DREAM CARRIER (27) (CD) R Pes

Affirmum weight: 7sr 7ia. True handbop weight: Stand Tall 7st Sib. BETTIMO: 7-2 Sasseedo, 5-1 Sandanor Dealm, 11-2 Nashaat, 6-1 Ellina Ledger, 7-1 Barrel of Hope, Stand Tall, 10-1 others

12.45 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (LIN-

(DIV I) £3,150 added 6f (AW)

G SELMESTON (216) P Feigne 389.....

7 U-0.0.0 Care | 100-00 SEA 800 [18] M Chapman 4 8 5 | 100-00 SEA 800 [18] M Chapman 4 8 5 | 100-00 Marketown 4 | 10 560501, MATHEW DAVID (112) (20) S R Bowing 5 8 5... Carisle 3 | 11 100060 ALLAZ (27) (CD) R Homs 5 8 4 | 100-00 Machine 3 |

- 12 Gecarron BETTING: 9-4 Berga, 7-2 Desert Invador, 5-1 Seperbit, 8-1 Framed, Al-jaz, Matthew Dodd, 10-1 others

1.10 ORCHID MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 5f (AW)

1.40 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (LIN-

1) £3,150 added 6f (AW) 

BANGOR

HYPERION

1.20 Steadfast Elite 1.50 Big Arthur 2.20 Fer-

rufino 2.50 Better Times Ahead 3.20 Do Right-

GOING: Chases - Good; Hurdles - Good (Good to Firm in places)..

Left-femd, uncludating course; run-in (15)yrds.

Accompany is 4 miles south-east of Wrexham near junction of Ab25 and 85068. Bus service from Wrexham rathway station. AD-MISSION; Padriock 28; Course 54 (under-10s free all enclosures).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Habasha (2.20) has been sent 170 miles by M Pipe from Nicholastone, Devou; Passey Street Boy (2.20) has been sent 146 miles by J Bosley from Kingston Lisle, Oxon.

ly 3.50 Castle Sweep

CAR PARK: Free.

206200 AT THE SAVOY (18) (CD) T D Barron 4 8 8 ... 0-000 DISSENTOR (35) J Glover 3 8 7 \_\_\_\_\_S D William

COLN) CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV

505560 BOLD ARISTOCRAT (R) (CD) R Holinshead 4 8 8. 0-00000 LIGHT MOVEMENT (14) W.S. Carrorgham 5 8 8 ... A. Clark 5 000-00 SEA 600 (18) M. Charles A. P. E.

COLN) CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

054501 SASEEDO (USA) (30) W O'Eorman 5 10 0,...

25210-4 ELRIN LEDGER (312) (C) Mis N Macauley 6 9 6. 130115 HEATHYARDS LADY (13) (D) R Holinshead 4 9 5

The Grey Monk's victory helped to keep Richards' strikerate this season at more than 40 per cent, but rude health is not so conspicuous at Charles Egerton's stable. Egerton announced yesterday that Mysilv. the 1994 Triumph Hurdle winyear's Champion Hurdle, will miss the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle tomorrow.

or two of mine are getting a little cough but it is nothing seri-Bula Hurdle, where she will be Large Action's pacemaker." Egerton's sense of humour, at least, is fighting fit.

2.10 FOY & CO NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 2YO 7f (AW)

~ 16 declared — BETTING: 7-2 Bold Enough, 4-1 Rand, 5-1 Anges McConton, 6-1 Weish Melody, 8-1 One Life To Live, Hameland, 9-1 Hotips Houliham, 14-1 others

2.40 FARMERS WEEKLY HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,550 added 7f (AW)

400005 JOHERET THE JOHER PS (CD) J Legy 4 10 0 \_Dean McKeown 3

Minimum websit: 7st 7tb, True handicao websit: On Y Va 7st 5tb.

BETTING: 4-1 Mislement, 9-2 Be Warned, 6-1 Johanne The Joker, Pri Sik, Super Benz, 8-1 Penner, Stadow Jury, 20-1 others

3.10 A C OFFICE SUPPLIES SELLING STAKES

- 16 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Addie Pray, 9-2 Sumblefoot, 5-1 Dragonjoy, 7-1 Classic Dalsy, 15-2 Le Finals, 8-1 Dancing Cavaller, 9-1 Elipette, 12-1 others

3.40 IRIS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m 6f (AW)

513-90 STATES (2017) PWSWF 5 11 ... Merchioness Binefford (3) 1 623-24 TREMEDISTO (23) I Wison 5 10 13 ... Miss bines Junes 5 200522 (M8 (CAM) (8) (CD) | Paries 5 10 13 ... Mis M H Nengitton 6 040600 MODEST HDPE (53) (C) 8 Rehmand 8 10 12

Maximum weight: 9st 7th. True handlasp weights: Starlight Piper 9st 3b, Cho-nas Bay 9st 2b. BETIMES 54 jab., 4-1 Statiest, 6-1 Tremendiste, 12-1 Modest Hope, Starlight Piper, 14-1 Kudirl, Handsrajdes, 16-1 others

2.50 HELSHAW GRANGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

Minimum weight: 10st. True handkap weight: Bucks Surprise 9st 10th. BETTRIS: 4-5 Better Times; Alexad, 3-1 Master Boston, 5-1 Man of Mystery, 6-1 Honest Word, 14-1 Books Surprise

D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds

CROSS FOXES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS

- 12 decimed -

31000 HANDMAIDEN (18) (C) A Harrison 5 10 10...

(CLASS F) £3,650 added 2YO 1m (AW)

010021 BE WARNED (8) (CD) N Callaghan 4 10 2 (7ex).

"I was not happy with her blood this morning and her coat does not look as well as normal," the trainer said. "One ous. I suppose she will go straight to Cheltenham for the

### Hall in warning to the amateur

Sports Politics

Sir John Hall, the man behind the sporting revolution at New-castle United, yesterday warned the guardians of English sport that they faced "battles" ahead if they did not accept a shift in the balance of power.

He told a conference that amateur administrators could no longer expect to have the field to themselves and that the only way to ensure success in the 21st century was for them to form a partnership with professional entrepreneurs.

Sir John, who has transformed the fortunes of Newcastle United and now plans to do the same with Newcastle rugby club, was addressing the Central Council of Physical Recreation at Market Bosworth, Warwickshire.

"Ruling bodies have not learned to keep pace and I can't allow the amateur to run my business," he said. "You can no longer expect to have 100 per cent of power. Sport here has a great future if there is this

partnership.
"If not, we shall challenge you and your rules in the courts and there will be battles."

Sir John also predicted that more millionaires would be willing to move into senior rugby clubs if given the right encouragement.

The problem, Sir John maintained, was that national sports administration was so fragmented

"There are so many different bodies that I find it utterly confusing who to go to," he said.

#### **South Africa's** Olympic hope disappears

Hockey

BILL COLWILL reports from Cape Town

South Africa's dreams of returning to the Olympics ended here yesterday when they lost 2-1 to China. They join Canada as the second of the three teams who will miss out.

Elimination was hard on the Springbok women. The Chinese winning goal came with just 27 seconds remaining, killing off a South African fightback in which they had equalised after going a goal down in two minutes. On Wednesday they had lost to a similarly late strike by Germany that television action replays showed was allowed even though the ball had not been touched by a German in the shooting circle.

Nor were the South Africans too pleased with Chinese gamesmanship when they changed goalkeepers in a tactic that left the home striker Lindsey Carlisle waiting four minutes to take a penalty stroke won during a period when the Chinese were under sustained pressure. In the end Carlisle hit a tame stroke, which was saved. The Springbok coach, Kelly Fairweather, described the incident as a "débâcle".

Canada collected their first win of the tournament with a surprise 1-0 win against the Dutch. Results, Sporting Digest, page 31

#### Slick Davis moves into semi-finals

Salling STUART ALEXANDER

Rod Davis, the Olympic gold and silver medallist and America's Cup skipper, was once again in devastating form for the preliminary rounds of the Stein-

lager World Championship of Match Racing in Auckland, winning 13 of his first 14 races in the double round-robin. He will be joined in the semifinals by France's reigning world champion, Bertrand Pacé, who notched up 10 wins. The chas-

ing group is led by America's Ed Baird on eight victories. Beating the Kiwis on the same water at the weekend was the British team of Richard Sydenham, Adam May and Ian Williams from Exe Sailing Club, who won gold in the World Youth Match Racing Championships for the second year in

succession. Looking forward to the next America's Cup in 1999/2000, the Kiwis announced there will only be one defence syndicate, which allows them to build up to four new boats, compared with a maximum of two for each of a

group of challenging syndicates.

Two boats with all-male and all-female crews, backed by EF Education, will form a £10m Swedish bid to win the next Whitbread Round the World race.

### Grain takes it easy as Tokyo test approaches

...R Farrage

Pure Grain, aiming to become only the second British-trained was eased slightly with the winner of the Japan Cup, did nothing more than a light canter yesterday under her exercise rider, John O'Brien.

NEWBURY

LOO Kilcoran Bay (nb)

1.30 Bertone

SIS PACING

200 Nahri

) -----

was eased slightly with the news that Lassigny, the Rothmans International winner trained in America by Bill Mott, has a bruised foot and The Michael Stoute-trained may miss the race.

2.30 OLD BREDGE (nap)

3.00 Winsford Hill

HYPERION

GONG: Good.

Left-hand course with stiff fences.

Recoverse is south-east of town near A31. Rulway station (service from London, Parkington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £13: Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £3 (OAPshalf price). CAR PARK: Free; Pictuc area £8 per car plus £3 per person.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson - 24 winners from 100 num

m Leadings a success ratio of 2: 6% and a loss to a \$1 kvel stake of \$2!.11; N J Headerson - 21 winners, 99 runners, 21.2%, \$7.41; O Sherwood - 18 winners, 68 runners, 26.5%, \$5.4; M C Pipe 17 winners, 77 runners, 22.1% + \$4.46.

I Leading JOCKETS: B Danwoody - 38 winners, 146 rides, 26%, \$18.35; J Osborne - 38 winners, 149 rides, 25%, \$7.10, A Magnire - 19 winners, 120 rides, 15.8%, \$15.06; P Holley - 13 winners, 63 rides, 20.6%, +\$2.06.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS; Nove.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Summerchill Special (2,00) has been sent 173 miles by Mrs N Datifield from Asmouth; Fortitude Star (3,30) has been sent 149 miles by Mrs R Benderson from FollyGate, Devon.

1.00 FRESHMAN'S JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,750 added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,880

OUR MESS (Million in Mand Parmership (S)) N Hendeson 10 12.

PORTISCATINO (13) (Value For Money Reanig Mass Jacqueline S Doyle 10 12.

READYPOWER (Mass Julie Self) J Endger 10 12.

BETTING: 7-2 Lisothes, 4-1 Nilcoren Bay, 8-1 Oer Kins, Nextezz, 10-1 Birthday Boy, Lyaton Lad, 12-1 Wel Patch, 14-1 others

1984: Brave Tomado 3 10 12 B Cultord 3-1 IG B Batcheg 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

TIBETAN, a mail-brother to Salety in Numbers, tooks a nice type for hurding. Stamina is his tong start, he is reliablely legitly-raced and he rain well taiter a time-month lay-offl when a tup-length second to High Pamarch in a 14-funlong Lingfield maiden last month. On the downside, Tibetan has shown signs of a suspect temperament, but it is worth risking that he tailes to hurding. He will need to jump well to win a fairly competitive race such as this in a big field, but there will probably be a good pace on, which will help bring his staying power into play. Our Kiris, another staying type and a handicap winner this year, is a half-brother to a moderate winning hurder and cost 20,000 gris out of Guy Harwood's year at the Newmarket Autumn Sales, he improved on previous form to win a 14-furlong Newmarket handicap last month and Nick Heriderson will get the best from him. Lisothio hes won claimers over middle-distances in France and is worth noting for market interest on his first run for Martin Pipe.

Selection: TIBETAN

1.30 OXFORDSHIRE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added

3m Penalty Value £4,533

TIBETAN (Lacy Hernes) Lacy Hernes 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_E Murphy TOSIGNIO (12) (Berkshire Commercial Components 1th) D Williams 10 12 ... A Lamach (3)

LYNTON LAD (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 10 12...

WUTAZZ (The All-Roung Partnership) W R Hern 10 12.

Pure Grain's big-race partner, John Reid, takes over in the saddle for a more vigorous workout this morning.

- also had their first taste of Tokyo racecourse yesterday.

Coral: 4-1 Hishi Amazon, 9-2 Manta Brien, 6-1 Danewin. Sendon, 10-1 Pure Grain, 12-1 Awad, Hernando, Lassigny, Matikane-tamineuser, 14-1 Royce & Royce, Taki Biz-zoru, 20-1 Carling, Lando, Nice Nature, 33-1 others. The other European runners - Carling and Hernando from France, and Germany's Lando

ESKIMO NEL looks an improving sort judged on the way she best Tejano Gold at Warwick last time. She is upped in grade and higher in the ratings, but she has a genuine outdook and gets a stone from Neasurro who is capable of good form at two miles but might be best over two and a haif. His latest rim was in the Tote Selver Trophy Handicap Hindle at Chepstow when sorth to Jibber The Hibber. Markus returned from a longiny lay-off to an second to Lightening lad on that same Chepstow cond and that was encouraging. The balance of his form suggests he has been harshly treated in being reset if he gas in here with the racing steight of 10st 1lb. Nathri looks a fough cooke, having kept on well in tacky-looking conditions to beat New lim confortably at Leucester last time. He needs nudging along, but does respond and is another with a flow weight, the wall stay butther. Seetthampton responded gamely to pip Tejano Gold at Worcester last time, but a line through that one suggests that Eskimo Nel might win that battle, while Wild Strawberry has yet to bout of the first two in eight hunding attempts and has a weight that will suit her, given that she is on the small side.

Selection: ESKIMO NEL

	2	- G WI UR	g singli sag.	SECTIONS CONTRACTOR
	2	2.30	JACKY UPTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS I 2m 4f Penalty Value £7,142	3) £10,000 adde
	1		AROUND THE HORN (217) (C) (Pel-mel Partners) J Giford 8 11	
	2	1203/11-	ROUYAN (281) (D) (Peter Mines) Mrs J Pitman 9 11 12	W Marshot
:	3	2121F5-	ENSY BUCK (231) (D) (I P M & J W Cook) N Twiston-Davies 8 11	11
	•	2F4124-	KENTISH PIPER (217) (CD) (Mrs Tim Perfuns) N Gaselee 10 11 5	
1	5		PASKTO (221) (D) (Raymond Tooth) N Herderson 8 11 5	
•	6		WISE APPROACH (20) (D) (Mrs S Gee) K Basey 8 11 4	
	7	212215	THE FROG PRINCE (212) (CD) (Robert Cooper) N Gastise 7 11.	2,, Cabemi
4	8	4P04P-5	CHLAPAEZ (53) (D) (T J Blake) Miss B Sanders 11 10 9	
9	9	FF512-2	OLD BRIDGE (20) (D) (BF) (K C B Mackense) A Turnel 7 10 6	\$ <b>Lickell</b>
			@ destand	

BETERNS: 9-4 Rowyso, 7-2 Around The Horn, 9-2 Wise Approach, 8-1 Easy Buck, Pashto, The Frog Prince, 19-1 Kentish Piper, 14-1 others 1994: Kesabate 11 12 0 S McNell 9-2 U Galford 3 ran

Prince, 19-1 Kentish Paper, 24-1 coroses
1984: Ketabate 11 12 0 S McNeil 9-2 U Gaford) 3 ren
FORM GUIDE
ROUYAN won both his handicap starts over fences last season m impressive fashion, but
did not race again after toying with Gnome's Tyodon at Sandown in February. He had won
at Humongton two and a half months earlier, outclassing Persian House, and he looked
useful in wrining a notice chase at Stratford the previous season, atthough he subsequently
disappointed in the Sun Alhance Novice Chase at Cheleterham. Obvouly, there's a chance
he will need the run today, but he gets a namow vote over Easy Buck who would have gone
close to wiming first time up last term but for a 12th-lence clunder in the Cheberham
handicap onto by River Mandate. He won twice alterwards, both times at Warwick, but he
won over the Ascot and Heydock fences the previous season and, at eight, might easily get
better. He usually jumps soundly and he should be a fonce in any two-and-a-faif-male handcapp he contests this season. The Fing Phinces, only seven, is another with the controllar to
do well after a promising first season over fences, while Around The Horn has enough wagnt
but is ultra consistent.

E	3.00	SHOPPING ARCADE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,705
1		WEYSFORD HILL (78) (Sir Horse Power) P Hotos 4 11 10
2		DARK NIGHTINGALE (21) (BF) (IAss Le Clan) O Shennood 5 11 8
3		GOLDIENSWIFT (23) (Mrs S Wans) G Baking 5 11 7 B Feeton (3)
4	557-43	MR PRIMETIME (29) (BF) (Angua Telecom Centres Pici C Brooks 5 11 2
5	STORE.	FOX ON THE PLIN (380) (Robert Osten) A Turnel 8 11 0

Minimum weight 10st. The handsop weight the Chethoraper Set 7b.

BETTINGS 9-4 Wissfand Hill., 11-4 Durnhan, 3-1 Dark Nightingsia. 8-1 Goldenswift, 10-1 Mr Primetime, 14-1 Rax On The Ren, Clesh of Cymbols, 16-1 others

1994: Cathe Fleur 8 12 0 P Hide 5-1 (M Pipe) 8 an

FOX ON THE RUN has not had much chance to show his worth, being brought down on
his session-opening run over fences at Kempton last November 3nd then failing here in another chase a week letter, admittedly when fading in heavy going. Favourable note was made
of this horse in his first season, particularly when he was a tenderly handled but strong-finishing fifth of 15 to Chemin Le Rio over hurdles at Wincariton. His owner, Robert Ogden, is
employing a run of success and Fox On The Run, who will probably be bed; over tences in
due course, tooks interesting here with Gary Chone able to claim 6th. Goldenswift, a point
to point winner, won only a masten hurdle at Stratford test month when Mr Primetime was
third. Winsford Hill is difficult to assess on September's Newton Aboot win, but Ass 11st
10th to dety.

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### — Ju conserve — Marenum weight: 10st. True handcap weight: Nov's Dost 3of 10th, BETTINE: 7-2 Note, 9-2 Nortus, 5-2 Estimo Nel, 7-1 Southampton, Windowsrd Ariom, 8-1 New Teamment 10-1 40th-or

Zenyman, 10-1 others 1994: Aubum Castle 5 10 0 J Osbome 9-2 (O Sherwood) 11 ren

#### RACING RESULTS

CARLISLE CARLISLE

1.10: 1. TOPSAWYER (N Bentley) 14-1;
2. Mister Trick 25-1; 3. Salvo 10-1: 25 ran.
7-2 fav Real Tonce, 8, 14-. (Tramed by Miss
5 Hall at Middelwam, Tothe: £30, 70: £5-70,
23-0; £4-10. Dust Forecast: £274.54. Tric: not won. Iteast: £2, £32, 79. NRs. Herbahet; Specie Brown (14-1) wardrawer not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 5p in pound.
1.40: 1. LANSBOROUGH (P Carberty)
4-6 fav; 2. Shallow River 50-1; 3. Bangghungi 10-1: 14 ran. 7, nk. (G Richards. Greystola.) Tothe: £1,80; £1,20, £34.50.
£2-20. DF: £135,10: CSF: £34.45. Tric: £103.90.
2.10: 1. THE GREY MONK (B Harding)

210:3.90. 2.10:1. THE GREY MONK (B Harding) 2.7 for, 2. Softon 8-1; 3. Rocharisare 14-1.7 ran, dist, 14. (G Rechards). Roter £1.10; £1.20, £2.80. DF: £4.40, CSF: £3.61.



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THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 8839 - 111 171 \*Commentary

te 6: £150.35. Place 5: £110.40.

5. (K Basley, Upper Lambourn), Tota: £4.90; £1.80, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £30,40. CSF: £48,84. Tho: £57.90.

1.20: 1. PRINCETHORPE (7 Murphy) 20:1; 2. Lambaon 12:1; 3. Backstabber 20:1; 12:ran, 11-4 fav Capthin Marmalade (6th). 144. sht-hd. (B R Cambidge, Bishopswood), Tota: £24.50; £3.10, £3.80; £4.50. DF: £173.40, CSF: £219.03. Tho: not won. Trease: £4,338.81.

1.50: 1. CALLISOE BAY (J Osborne) 1-4 fay; 2. Hawkfield 14-1; 3. Storming Rus 14-1 4 ran, 9, sht-hd. (O Shewood, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £1.30. DF: £6.50. CSF: £3.84.

2.20: 1. CAN CAN CHARLIE (L Aspell) £3.84.
2.20: 1. CAN CAN CHARLE (L Aspel)
3.1: 2. Miss Cashtal 7-4 far; 3. Noesticitus 4-1. 6 ras. 24, 6, U Peace, Newmarket), Total: £3.70: £2.00, £1.80. DF.
£3.00. CSF: £8.07. Treast: £15.59. NRs. Jar-

£3.00. CSF: £8.07. Treast: £15.59. NRs. Iar-ruell. Nadeh. 2.50: 1. SMOTHYS BAND (W. Merston) 11-10 fav: 2. Strong Medicine 11.8; 3. Hea-est Word 5-1.4 ran. 3-½. 3. (Mrs. J. Pluman, Upper Lambourni, Toter £1.70. DF: £1.20. CSF: £2.94. NR: Satiol Lim. 3.20: 1. ELFLAA (U. Osborne) 7-2 fav; 2. Sudden Spin 4-1; 3. Albembre 20-1. 10 ran. 316, 214. DI Henderson, Lambourn). Toter £3.60: £1.70. £1.70. £7.00. DF: £7.20. CSF: £16.47. Troc £30.90. Treast: £216.33. NR: Test Match. CSP: £15-91. INC 200.50. Ingasc 1/210.33, NR: Test Match, 3.50: 1. PROPHETS HONOUR (M Foster) 9-4 p. fav; 2. Yacht 20-1; 3. Claireswan 6-1 15 ran. 9-4 p. fav Ctracusa (6th), 3. 3. (P Hastam, Mitcleinam), Totte: £4.30; £1.20, 15.70, £1.60. DP. £54.30. CSP; £45.75. Inc.

E53.50. NR. Ray River.
Place St £377.63. Place St £87.15.
Quadpot: £5.10. Placepot: £1,090.00
Jackpot: £11,999.10.

#### (CLASS F) £4,000 aggles 271 47 110ytts 1265P ROMANS SLEN (249) M Wilderson 8 11 10 ... R Supple DD 2313 BAST HOUSTON (13) (RP) 1] O'Neal 6 11 5 ... All Duylor OGG43 BIG ARTINER (369) D Norteson 8 11 3 ... P Nives 2131-6 Dawless Sun (28) Floress 6 10 6 ... A Thorston 660473 JASON'S BOY (15) M Bradley 5 10 5 ... J F Tibey 860353 SERMOUR SPY (188) Mrs A Hentil 6 10 2 ... S Wymoth O4D72 NBLARDO (228) J Ning 9 10 1 ... G Upton PS-0334 ON THE TEAR (6) Fluory 9 10 0 ... Gary Lyons - 8 deci Minimum weight: 10st. The Handicap weight: On the Tear Sst Stb. BETHNC: 4-6 Big Arthur, 9-2 Dantes Son, Ronans Gles, 7-1 Jason's Boy, 8-1 East Houston, 14-1 Nilaron, 18-1 others 2.20 WOOD FARM STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f

....Richard Gaest

- 7 declared BETTING: 5-4 Do Rightly, 7-4 fits Muffigur, 8-1 Arctic Red, 10-1 Mony-Skip, Dancing At Laharn, 20-1 trons in The Fire, 25-1 Spn Knilly 3.50 HANMER NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f 1.50 ELLESMERE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE O ALTHREY ARSTOCKATA (20) F Lloyd 5 10 12 ... P MeLonghile.
ALTHREY CAPPAIN F Lloyd 5 10 12 ... S Wynne
BEATHORE DRIAMS | Stown 6 10 12 ... Mr A Brown (7)
0 BT OF A DREAM (12) Mrs S Smen 5 10 12 ... L Wyer
BRANDIFE W Clay 6 10 12 ... A S Smith (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 

36-1321 SERTONE (13) Mus Harry I Dufteyi N Basiny 6 11 10. J Castorne 39/112-3 ACT THE WASG (23) (89) (Robert Option A Turnel 8 11 3. P Castorne 22756-4 ABSOLUTELY AVERAGE (14) (Dybards Bookstock) C Strooks 5 11 1. GB stadioty 134-472 GLEWIPEN PRINCESS (6) (Paincia McCantyl Mrs Memta Jones 7 10 12 D Byrare CO ASS CONTINUE MOVICE HURDLE (C) ASS C) £4.750 added 3m 2.00 BRIMPTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,900 1994: Rea the Power 6 11 0 N Williamson evens (K Balley) 14 ran FORM GLINDE FORM GLEDE

TENNESSEE TWIST has had three weeks to recover from the exertions of his hundles debut at Chopstow when a sine second to a useful-looking horse, Pleasure Shared, with Tour Leader fourth. Chepstow can be a lung-bursting course when the rain gets in, as was evident there on Wednesday, so Tennessee Twist is going to make a good stayler and has a decent chance here. Barronet, a neck second to Storm North at Wordester (2m), should stay three miles and can improve, while the winning hish pointer Oddel is what wastring. Woodford Gelle, Yehmi and Hermitte Die Manock have shown verying degrees of promise and the weit-bred Yehmi looks sure to win a race before long after his four-length Wincanton second to the highly-rated See More Business.

Selection: TENNESSEE TWIST

2.40: 1. ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (P Never) 11-2: 2. Abbot of Pursess 2-1 tav. 3. Sharkashika 12-1. 8 taa. 4, 2. (Mar M Reveley, Settlum). Tota: £6.30; £2.60, £1.40, £3.60. Dual Forecast: £6.30; £2.60, £1.40, £3.60. Dual Forecast: £17.17. Theast: £119.54.
3.10: 1. STRONG APPROACH (B Storey) 10-11 tay; 2. Precipice Ren 9-2; 3. Willia Ng. 7-2.5 rear. 1, 3rl-M. J. Crarton, Snicksisko. Tota: £1.80; £1.30, £1.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £5.20.
3.40: 1. FREDDE: MUCK (Mr M Rimel) 5-1; 2. Docionaster 14-1; 3. Moconshina Denoes 11-4 fav. ½ ran. 11, 2vb. (N Veston-Devies, Cheberham). Tota: £4.70; £1.70, £5.50, £1.70, Dual Forecast: £9.70. Carbonater Smalght Forecast: £9.70. Carbonater Smalght Forecast: £9.87. Incast: £209.14. Tao: £4.80.
Place 8: £56.77. Place 5: £4.47. Quadopt: £0.70.

uadpot: £2.70. bacepot: £30.90.

.0839 - 111 175 Berger Stophen 871 485 5964 TAUNTON

TAUNTON

1.00: 1. HAWMER HINNTER (J. A McCarthy)
9-4 lay, 2. Blair Castle 5-2: 3. Douce Maisson 11-2: 34 ras. 11-8. (C. Egerino, Charleson 11-2: 34 ras. 11-8. (C. Egerino, Charleson 11-1: 34 ras. 11-8. (C. Egerino, Charleson 11-1: 30: 1. YUBRALEE (D. Bridgsorter) 4-7 tar.
2. Hendison 20-1: 3. Castle Chica 11-1: 14 ras. 7, 20. (M. Pipe, Wellingson). Tober £1.60; £1.10; £5.70, £2.90. DF: £20.40.
CSF: £14.79. Thi: £35.10.
2.00: 1. DURALLOW LODGE (D. Bridgsorter) 11-2: 2. Toersen Prince 15-2: 3. Larry's Lord 100-30. 7 ras. 2-1 fav Ful of Oats. 3, 24. (C. Barrell, Treatmon, Total: £5-90; £2.20. DF: £11.80. CSF: £39.77.
2.30: 1. NORTHERN STARLIGHT (D. Bridgsorter) 12-2: 2. Supermide 4-1; 3. Life Hoolingson 9-2: 6 ras. 3-1 fav (p. Tre Luncton (4th). 4-34. R. Baker, Therton). Total: £4.70: £1.80, £2.10. DF: £10.50. CSF: £20.70.
3.00: 1. FALMOUTH BRY (G. Upron) 5-4 fav; 2. Mr Picipochat 7-1: 3. Rave En Rose 10-3. 12 ras. 4, 7. (S. Sherwood, East Reley). Total: £2.50; £1.30. This £13.80.
3.30: 1. SECRET FOUR (A. Hoy) 12-1: 2. Grand Applacase 13-2: 2. Have A Mignacase 9-1.8 ras. 15-8 fav The Black Monk. ISM. 174. 10. (Mrs. S. Wilsons; £567.94.
Place 6: £150.35. Place 5: £110.40.
Duradner not were

UTTOXETER 12,50; 1, STAC-POLLAEDH (I J Murphy) 7-2; 2, Swiss Mountain 16-1; 3, St Kitis 8-1, 9 ran. 2-1 fav Scorched Air (4th), rik RUGBY LEAGUE'S NEW HORIZONS: Australian influx threatens to raise London's status, as Dave Hadfield reports, while below, an England international mines South African potential

### **Broncos** bucking the trend



This is a critical playing. Since they brought in time in the Lon- a crop of Australian players sevdon Broncos' battle to establish successful part of the capital's sporting scene.

Although they announced this week that Charlton Athletic's ground at The Valley is to be their home for the remainder of this season and their first in the Super League. it is in two stadiums on the op-posite side of London that the more immediate dramas will be played out.

Tomorrow they meet Halifax in the third round of the Regal Trophy at The Stoop. Eight days later, there is talk of a full house at Brentford for the visit of Wigan in the league.

These are exciting, if sometimes confusing times in the chebegan

up shop at 'It's important
Craven Cottage in 1980 and con- that we tinued when the Brisbane Bron- perform and cos took over an uiling club two get results. vears ago. Even Barry People always

Maranta. sold up his 25 per like winners cent of the Brisand now owns 75 per cent of the a very entertaining sort of London operation, admits that

it has been tougher than he imagined to get this far. We have offered six-figure sums to soccer clubs and they haven't wanted to know." he says. "But now that we have got a real home at The Valley, we

can get out into the streets and

the schools and tell people "Once people come to the games, it's very easy to make them converts. Getting publicity in London is a struggle. partly because rugby union oc- of games," he says. "Other cupies a place in London's teams watch the way you play

Brisbane Broncos up from difference between our game

tool is the expansive style of rugby that the Broncos have been

eral notches up from the usual London blend of back-packers and lower-graders, they have produced some dazzling dis-

A gifted young pair of half-backs from Brisbane, Leo Dynevor and Ben Walker, have been highly influential, but perhaps the one signing that shows that the Broncos really mean business is that of Paul Hauff.

To call Hauff an imposing player would be an understatement. He is 6ft 8in. fast, agile, has played full-back for both Queensland and Australia and, at 25 with much of his best rugby in front of him, has thrown in his lot with London rather than carrying on with

Yes, they are exciting times here, and the next couple of quered history of rugby league weeks are the best chance we'll in London, this chapter of have of getting a big audience," weeks are the best chance we'll he says. "It's very

important that we perform and get the right results. People always like winners. It is the star

quality of players like Hauff, Walker and Dynevor that can not only make London winners, but winners with plenty of style. "We play

game," Hauff says. "In fact, we only know one way to play and sometimes it can catch us out. But it depends on the type of players you have. We've got blokes with a bit of flair and they just want to throw the ball out That can create all manner of opportunities for a rangy giant

ke Hauff chiming in from fullback, and it brought him no less than eight tries in his first four games for the club. "I've had a bit of a drought the last couple mentality that I don't think it de- and start to read what your play-"But we will do it. We got the I rely a lot on those players."

From a players' point of view, 3,000 to 44,000 and we will be Hauff welcomes the news of a marketing very heavily on the permanent home, even if it represents something of a hor-Maranta's best marketing with two other Broncos, in Edg-

"We will start to get some



home advantage now. So far, ground must be, given the hisevery game has been like an

Their nomadic existence has ror drive from his house, shared taken the Broncos into some strange places, of which to- a new audience, the players and morrow's venue for the last of members of one of rugby their games at the Harlequins'

"Much as they wouldn't like in. They don't have anything like to admit to it, they were fasci- that in their game. tory of the two codes, the strangest. It gave them. Marannated by the way we play the ta says, a chance to take their invigorating brand of rugby to

play for us and is now with Har- against South Africa last weeklequins, told us that they were end. We want to be compared wincing every time a big hit went and contrasted. We welcome it."

"We're confident about the attractions of our code. We know

"John Gallagher, who used to it's better than that rubbish

this I somehow doubt.

There were disappointments.

like the way that the media

failed to turn up for a session

that was arranged to publicise

# Age holds no barriers to barbells

t an age when most peo-ple are window-shoplooking at sheltered accommodation or thinking that Malta may be a bit lively for their holidays, John Gallacher is planning to lift a legendary boulder weighing considerably more than three old ladies

and the lavatory. He intends to do this for the same reason as a dog licks its bottom: because he can. Heav-ing almost 500lb off the ground is remarkable enough for a 64-year-old grandfather anyway. It's all the more extraordinary when you meet the man once described as "probably the strongest Scot who ever lived". Far from being an ageing colossus, Gallacher looks, frankly, a bit of a squirt. He is just 5ft Sin, scales a mere 12 stone 81b and whispers rather than bellows – scarcely the stuff

Yet Gallacher, who is still among the country's top powerlifters despite his advanced years, is living proof that the weak can not only inherit the

earth, but can even lift it a few inches. As a child, he was so sickly that he spent months off school with pneumonia.

pleurisy \_\_ asthma. Health handicaps like that would have been bad enough in Hampstead, but Gallacher lived in the Gorbals area of Glas-Doctors would not live to become teenager. If disease didn't get

him, then the came his salva- **John Gallache**r

tion. He sought refuge in libraries, reading books on strongmen, psychology and hypnosis. He started to believe he could get better and it worked. At 15, he joined a weightlifting club. At first, he could hardly lift the bar. Four years later, he was weightlifting champion. He could juggle with 56lb weights, bend iron bars and break chains around his chest. For afters, he lifted a 16 stone policeman above his head and

held him there with one hand, blow up hot-water bottles and invited people to hit him in the chest with a sledgehammer. He even convinced his 11-year-old sister, a sub-five stone waif, that it is all in the mind. Soon she upon himself to help us with was breaking six-inch nails in half. "This power is within languages spoken in Alexandra. everyone," he says. His most famous feats were makeshift rooms where he lives

even more spectacular. Outside an Aberdeen hotel are the Dinnie Stones, named after Donald Dinnie, a 19th century Scottish showman who was the only man to have lifted them. Gallacher, weighing just 11 stone 7lb, picked up the largor granite boulder weighing 448lb, with such ease and carried it across a stage that the 6ft 7in Highland Games champion, who was there as the main attraction, refused to compete against him. He followed this by picking up the Inch Bell. The 1821b



Thomas Inch, an Edwardian strongman who toured the world offering £200 to anyone who could lift the weight, had such a thick bar that it was impossible to grip properly. But Gallacher lined it up to his waist three times, and he still regrets that he did not think of lifting it above his head.

Then Gallacher lost interest in feats of strength. He went into business, got married, had a family, toured the world. Back in the UK, he moved to Poole, Dorset, and set up a hyp-

of his lessons for success.

myself الدي 1° an inspirational psychologist. When people come to see me, they have often hope." he says.
"It can take a while but the power change is with-That might

be the end of the story. But a Geoff Capes took his strongman show to Bournemouth be- Powerlifting grandfather lacher was 55

seriously ill. "1 hadn't done it for years, but I thought I might be able to tear a telephone directory. To my surprise. I tore up four, three

bent iron bars, too. Soon he was back in the gym. In 1991, he won the British, European and World Championships in his class, breaking the world record with a 240kg deadlift. Injury prevented him from defending the title, but in 1993 he returned to Aberdeen to lift the larger Dinnie Stone again several times so TV cameras could get a shot from the right angle. His wife, Christine, says: "What shakes everyone is that he is not a big person. It gives people a sense of: 'Maybe I could do something like that

Gallacher, who trains three times a week, believes he is getting stronger. Illness (he has had bouts of yuppie flu for years) may slow him down, but he foresees himself lifting weights well into his seventies, and says: "I would like to keep improving. My best squat is 4301b and I'm sure I can beat

He even wants to bring the World's Strongest Man contest to Poole and turn Sandbanks beach into a British version of Muscle Beach. It may sound daft, but would you argue with a little old man who can still lift a 56lb weight with his little

### Children who put the game into perspective

England's Phil Clarke has

found a visit to South Africa to

coach in townships the perfect

antidote to his World Cup final

So far life has been very good to me. Playing with the great Wigan side, representing Great Britain and England and now Widnes, has been putting his the challenge of a new life in Australia with the Sydney City Roosters, with the luxury of a second home in Bondi; I'm as a result. We would be all grateful for all of it.

I knew that I was lucky, but never quite how lucky until I took on the biggest challenge of my life - coaching rugby league to youngsters in the notorious townships of South Africa. It is an experience that will linger forever in my mind.

Along with Brian Foley, the youth coach at the Wigan St Patrick's club, we went into places you only ever hear of as hostile and unsafe on the back

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS WEEKEND / Climbing

The Snow and Rock Climbing World Cup at the National Indoor

Arena, Birmingham, this weekend is the third and penultimate round of the world series and the competition remains open. Last year in the men's event the Frenchman

François Lombard deposed his

countryman François Legrand, winner of the previous four years. This term they are in ninth and fifth

with Ian Vickers, the British No 1 who has not competed so far in the World Cup, but has already won the ESPN Masters in the States, an invitation event involving the

world's leading 26 men. The

French dominate this indoor cir-cuit, with Arnaud Petit leading the men's Cup, while Laurence Guy-on is the women's leader. Robyn Erbesfield, last year's victor from the United States, lies second with another Frenchmonian. Its Sansar

another Frenchwoman, Liv Sansoz.

encorner Henchwoman, LIV Sansoz. How to get there: National Indoor Arma, Ring Enwards Road, Birmergham, Junction 6 of Mill end the Arma is signocated from the A38(M). (Bo), Office 0.121.200.2222). Tickets: today 55 adults; £2.50 children under-16: £4.50 stutents; (APS. Tomorrow £8.50; £3; £7.65. Sunday £11.50 (upper tied), £13.50 (Rower); £4.55: £10.35, £12.15. Rower betwee: £22 adults; £7.50 children Cambang starts at 10am each day, with the finets on Sunday.

what was goung to be waiting for

energy into this work for several years and over 3,000 youngsters have been exposed to the game right, even in areas where the crime statistics make those in New York pale by comparison, he assured us. They would recognise the wagon and know that we were there to help. What he did not tell us was that Monica, a voluntary work-er from England who has been helping out on the project, had been stopped at gun-point in Alexandra and had her vehicle

car-jacked from her a few days

earlier. Had we known that, we

would have been even more ap-

BADMINTON: Scottish Open (Glasgow). Play boday runs from 10am to 10pm. Admission: £2 adults. £1 µunos:0APs. Tomonow: seminals begin at 1pm (£3, £1.50). Sunday: Finals from 1pm (£3, £1.50). Nehm Hall international Airch as west of Glasgow City Centre, on Argyle Street. (Tet: 0141 357 2525).

TONORROW
FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership, Endsleigh League and Scottish League programmes. Russry LEAGUE: Regal Trophy third round: London Bronco v Haistig (Hartequins RFC, 3.0). RUSSRY LEAGUE: Regal Trophy third round: London Bronco v Haistig (Hartequins RFC, 3.0). Russry V Western Samous (3.0); Lenser v Transversit (2.30). CS Divisorial Championship: North V London (Waladied, 2.30); South-West v Middands (Goucester, 3.0). Heineven Westshi League. Terment Scottish Championship. North McCiker: Men's International: Caret Britan v Argentina (Houristov HC, 2.0). Admission by programme £1. Hockey (Lib., Chiswich Boat House, Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, London W4. (1et. 0.181, 1994, 8812). Women's Nestonal League programme.

Dave Southern, from

prehensive than we were. I also asked myself whether I was going to be able to do anything worthwhile for the children I was supposed to work with. Our first day put my mind at

We were in a Catholic orphanage in the township of Vaal, run by an Irish priest called Father Terry, who has been there for the last 20 years. The person there I will always remember is three-year-old

CYCLO-CROSSE Notes and Derby League (Sutton-in-Ashified). First race in the neith round starts at 1pm, with the main race at 2.15gm. Ashified Lawns, Sutton-in-Ashified, Notting-termstrie, is signposted off A38 from junction 28 of M1. Mersey Rouse CC (Liverpool), 12.45pm, 2pm. Otanspool Park, Jedrob Lame, Algburth Vale, is four miles south of Liverpool oby certife. Bradford Olympia RC (Leach), 1pm, 2.15pm. Bramiey Fail Park, is on Leads to Bradford road between livitistal and Rodley, SNOONER: Royal Liver Assurance UK Champioriship (Guid Hell, Pression). The most presupposits ranking tournament after the Word championiship continues until 3 December. The weekent's sessories are at 1pm (admission £2) and 7pm (£3). The Guid Hall, Pression is in the city centre. (Box office: 01772 258856).

SUNDAY
POOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership: Arsenal v
Brackburn (4.0). Endsleigh Lengue First Division: Brimmingham v Leicester (2.55); Wastord
v Norwich (2.55). Second Division: Carlisle v
Wycombe (3.0). That Division: Hereford v Cardiff
(12.0). Scothish Occa-Cola Cup firet: Aberdeen
v Dundee (Hampden Park, 3.15).
RUGBY LEASUE: Regal Trophy third round.
Stones Certenary Championship.
RUGBY UNION: CIS Insurance County Championship Michands Pool One: Warwickshire v
Notts, Lincs and Desby (Rugby, 3.0).
HOCKET: Men's National League programme.
CYCLO-CHOOSS: Greater London Open Championships (Obydon). Roger Hammond, the detending champion, comitues his secon's tussie 
with Barrier Clarke, the national champion, while 
David Baler, Gay Food, Steve Douce and Tim
Gould, winner of the National Trophy series race 
last morth, mount the professional challenge 
in the International status event. A strong Dutch 
from Leaf But Est Status event. A strong Dutch 
from Leaf But Est Status event. A strong Dutch 
from Leaf But Est Status event.

last month, mount the professional challenge in the international status event. A strong Dutch team, led by by Enc Veneleem and a Beiglan squad, captained by the former amateur world champon fluid. Thelmans, provide the tough edge for the Britain and Engand squads. The course at Addington Hells is unforgiving for the more but good for specialing with spectacular drops and climbs. Programme: 10,45am Open Mountain Bitle Champorathips; Ipm Open Schoolboy/gist champorathips; Ipm Open Schoolboy/gist champorathips; profession (Feeter London Open Champorathips; profession (Feeter London Open Champorathips; profession (Feeter London Open Champorathips) professional Adding-

disappointment Faith, who was suffering from malnutrition and called me Father Philip, because he assumed

I was a priest. I lifted him up, just as I had hoped to lift the World Cup at Wembley. My reward then was a loser's medal, this time a smile. Talk about restoring your

We coached the skills of the game that day to over 100 children and their eye-to-hand coordination and agility were a

ton Hills, is one mile east of Croydon centre. Other events: Midland League (Luffield). 10am, 1.30pm, Cetton Park is five miles north of Licrifield, Staffontdriver, near Watton upon Trent, North-Eastern League (Houghon te Spang). 10am, non-Heston Lyons Cydang Carolat. Hyre and Wear, is two miles atong the Houghon to Sunderland road. ASC Centreville Plochdelet. non, 1.15pm. Mandale Park is one mile north-east of Rochdele town centre or ASS Halifa. road. Somer valley CC (Bath). 1.15pm. 2.15pm. The Turnips, Odd Down Playing Fields, is off ASOG2 Prome road, 1½ miles from cty certire. Salishuy RC (Romsey). 11am, noon, Pratis Parm, Burny Lane, Timsbury, is two miles north of Romsey, Hampshire, on ASOT Stockholdse road. Abertynon RC (Senghenydd). 10.45em, 11.30pm. The course is between Senghenydd and Nelson, Mid-Garmongan, to the north. Jonathen Boble Memoral Cross (Leods). 10.30am, 1.30pm. Temple Newson Park is next to ASS Setby road on the east side of Leods.

Debus, 10 South, 2000 in the east ade of Leeds.

ROWING: Perpetual British Indoor Champonshops (Reading). Matthias Siejtowski, the world indoor record holder from 2.500 metres and world chempoon, leads the record entry of 815 competitions. Selejtowski's previous appearance at the British championships sixs in 1932 when he edged out Greg Searle to win the Blue Riband men's open title. His task this year may prove more difficult as the race distincts has been shortened to 2,000m to fall into line with the Olympic rowing distance and this will make acting closer. Competition takes place on Concept II indoor rowing machines, Heast start at 10mm, with the first final at 12.12pm and the men's open final scheduled for 4.50pm, Spectating is the. Rivermead Lelsure Complex, Richfield Avenue, Reading, is close to Caversham Bridge. (Tel: 01734 504343).

Next week
FOOTBALL (7.30 unless stated): Monday:
FA Carling Pressive Physics Notingham Forest
Wanchester Utd (8.0), Auto Windscreens
Sheld second round: Northern section: Don-

្ទ

pleasant surprise. At the end, we even younger boy who took it gave them rugby shirts donated by the players and parents of communicating in the various Wigan St Pat's under-16s and the looks on their faces were He took us to his home, the two worth the whole trip. The next few days took us to with his mother. I've promised

a series of coaching clinics, to write to him, but whether let-which have left me with a host ters get delivered to places like of memories. There was Sipho, an 11-year-old from a shanty in Alexandra, who wore his Wigan shirt with such pride and assured us, with equal pride, that he was best player around. He was good, very good. Extraordinarily courageous, he just went for the line every time, no matter what. But that

Reading v Southampton (7,45). Auto Wind-screens Shield second round: Northern sec

vaal (SA) (7.30). CIS lånder-21. Comtly Champlonnship: Middends semi-finalis: North Middends v Statifordshere (Stoubridge, 7.30). Northern Group: Cheshire V Yorkshere (Sale, 7.15). Clab Missishere Promptoro V cardiff (7.0). Pomptod v Maestag (7.0). South Wales Police v Aberdon (7.0). Wednesday: CIS Series Tour Match; London and South East v Western Semoa (fluctenham, 2.0). Representative Match: Royal Nevy v New Zealand Army (Rectory, 7.30). Clab Matchass: Cambridge Univ v Steels-Bodger at XV (3.0); Treorchy v Fairwater (7.0).

the work Dave is doing. It shows the uphill struggle that he has faced and still faces I'm back in Bondi now, but the whole experience has taught was almost the norm among me a great deal. Sport can do kids who showed such a burning desire to play the game. Then there was Vincent, an

so much to improve those children's futures. It all puts losing a World Cup into perspective. JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator RACING: Monday: WOLVERNAMPTON (AW) Members £15; Grandstand £6. (2.10)

RACING: Monday: WOLVERNAMEPTON (WY): Members £15; Grandstand £6. (2.10). Woncestur: Members £15; Tattessals £9; Course £4.50 (OAPs £2.25). (12.50). Keleoc Cub £10: Tattersals £6 (OAPs £3.) accompanied under-15s free). (1.0). Treedeny: Forkwell: Cub £12; Juneo Cub £12: 15-year-oids £2, under-12s free; Tattersals £8 (accompanied under-12s free; Tattersals £6. (1.15). Newcastilis: Cub £12 (OAPs £6, 18 to 20-year-oids £2, under-16s free): Tattersals £9 (OAPs £6); Silver Ring £4. (1.230). Wednesday: LINGFIELD (AWY): Members £12, Tattersals £8; Silver Ring £4. (1.10). Casterloid: Cub £10; Tattersals £6; Course £4. (1.250). Thurnday: LINGFIELD (AWY): as Wednesday: (1.15). Leloester: Cub £12; Tattersals £6; Silver Ring £4. (1.10). Priday: SUITHWELL £8; Silver Ring £4. (1.10). Experience Cub £14; Course £6. (1.10). Silver Ring £4. (1.20). Silver Ring £4. (1.20). Silver Ring £4. (1.20). Silver Ring £4. (1.20). Salver Ring £4. (1.20). NEXT WEENEND Lincoln v Prestor; Rotherham v Wagar; Scuntorpe v York: Wresham v Zerlaie, Southern Section: Steration v Fulkani (7.45); Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth; Cardin's Worthernston; Codord Util v Colcrester (7.45); Peterstonough v Swanseo (7.45); Shrewsburg v Bristol City; Walsali v Brighton (7.45); Shrewsburg v Bristol City; Walsali v Brighton (7.45); Metersing v Seewage (7.45); Metersing v Seewage (7.45); Metersing v Stewage v Rodernia v Rode purmey, southern section. Swintish vietoria (7.45).

RIGHEY LEAGUE: Wednesday: Stones Contensury Championship: Sheffield v St Helens: 7.301; Warmigton v Leeds (7.301; Workington v Castleford (7.301; Branch Divisions Battley v Salford (7.301; Devasbury v Keighley (7.301; Huddershick v Wakefield (7.302; Rochade v Hudf (7.303, Second Division; Carlse v York (7.301; Chotey v Leigh (7.301; Highfield v Barrow (7.301; Hudf RR v Doncaster (7.301; Swinton v Barnley (7.301; Pickley: Stones Centinarry Chempionships Bradford v Okthorn (7.30).

RIGHEY Unifold: Monday: Chib Macher Moseley v Vasil Triangle (SA) (8.01). Taseday: Five Nations Helstedom Caup Pool B: Carofff V Ustar (7.15). Tour Match: Newcastle v Transval (SA) (7.301). CIS Linder-21. County Championship: Middendis sent-finals: North NEXT WEEKEND

RUGBY LEMBUE: Sunday: Stones Centenary Champonehip.
RUGBY UNION: Satunday: Tour Match: Munster v Transval (Cork. 2.30). CIS Insurance Series Tour Match: Mediands v Mestern Samoa (Locester, 3.0). Divisional Champdorship: London v South-West (Sunbury, 2.30). Hemeker Weist (Leigue. Fernents Scottish Champonship First Division.
RACINE: Satunday: WOLVERHAMPTON (AW): as Monday. (1.50). Chepstow: Cub £13; Tattesalls £9 (OAPs £8). (1.0). Sandown: Chip £15, hanco Cub 116-25yrs) £13; Grandstand and Petitiot. £12; Sher Fing £5, (1.25). Noncester: Members £12; Tattonalis £8; Course

£4 (Car plus ell occupants £15), (12.55), Wetherby: Cub £12 (accompanied under 16s feel; Tattersels £7; Course £2 (OAPs £11 (cars, including up to four adults £6), (12.40).

Plan ahead
The World Alpine Cup continues this weekend at the ski resort of Park City in Utah, United States, where the statom and giant statom specialists will perform. From here to the World cham-pionships in Span, the Cup finals in Life-hammer the following month and next month's start of the World Freestyle Cup, the choice abounds to watch the

the choice abounds to watch the world's leading siders.
Graham Bell carries the flag in downhill and super-G for the men's British Alpine team, though Andrew Freshwater, Dan Welker and Roger Welker, from the Europa Cup team, will fill the second place on form. Emma Carnick Anderson combines her slatom and gant slatom season with technical racing, in the freestyle events, Richard Cobbing and Kevin Harbut commue in the senats discipline, while Nathan Gardner and Enc Knight will perform in the mogas and Vicki Simpson in the acro. formerly known as ballet.

World Alphae Capt Men: 25-26 Nay Path City

formerly known as ballet.

World Alpine Cup: Men: 25-26 Nov Park Cty
(US., shorn, giant shorn. 1-2 Dec Vair (US.),
downhill, super-G. 6-10 Val d'Isère (Fr),
downhill, super-G. 65-10 Val d'Isère (Fr),
downhill, super-G. 16-10 Val d'Isère (Fr),
downhill, super-G. 16-10 Val d'Isère (Fr),
downhill, super-G. 16-10 Val d'Isère
Gora (Sloven), sielom, 21-22 Kraylea
Gora (Sloven), sielom, giant skalom, 29
Bornio (V.), downhill, 67-21 Fischau (aut),
salom, giant skalom, 12-21 Kraylea
(Swill), livo downhills, sialom, combined, 16-Adeltoden (Swill), giant skalom, 19-21 Veregen
(Swill), livo downhills, sialom, combined, 23
Vallore (Fr), super-G. 27 Sestrere (IV), downhill, sialom (night), 3-4-Feb GarmischPattenticchen (Cen., downhill, super-G. 10
Hatterstock (AU), gart skalom, 2-3 March
Happo One Usperil, downhill, super-G.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk The Independent, I Cana-

da Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

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### Rangers still hampered by domestic ambition

Where do Rangers go from here? The Glasgow dub have the last seven years, but their failure to make an impression in the Champions' League has placed them firmly at a crossroads where they will have to decide in which direction their

They have proved without estion that they are at the top of the Scottish tree, but again have been found wanting in the European arena, the very area where David Murray, the chair-

against Steaua Bucharest at Ibrox on Wednesday killed off their hopes for another season, although they did have the consolation of reaching the Champions' League itself after coming through the preliminary round

against Famagusta of Cyprus. In other seasons they have fallen at the first hurdle, although their appearance in the league sections this time merely highlighted inadequacies in the Rangers side which are seldom exposed in domestic foot-

can achieve only limited success, and those Rangers supporters who roundly cheered John Brown for his crunching tackles against Juventus and Steaua clearly have not yet grasped the

fundamental issues at work here. The big danger for Rangers is that those supporters and the players themselves become blind-ed by their determination to overtake Celtic's run of nine consecutive League wins, forsaking European ambitions. The Scottish League title can be won

man. craves success. A draw ball. Hard work and character Scotland's champions have again made as those two took their skills that is indeed the case, Smith no progress in the European Cup. David McKinney considers their failure

> European Cup cannot. Murray spent close to £10m on players over the summer, including the £4.3m which brought Paul Gascoigne from Lazio, yet the evidence of their European run would suggest they are no better placed to compete there than they were seven years ago.

> Against Steaua they were ex-

by gathering indifferent victories, posed several times by mobile and skilful opponents who had the awareness to drift in and out of different positions as re-quired, while Rangers stuck to

a more rigid formation. The suggestion of Dumitru Dumitru, the Romanian coach, that Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup were European-style players was an accurate assessment,

where they were needed, but were constantly left frustrated as their Scottish colleagues failed to appreciate their work.

Time and again Laudrup worked himself into a good position and found no help. For Rangers to progress, Walter Smith, the manager, requires players who are more sympathetic

to the workings of the creators.

Gascoigne has also shown he can create for Rangers, although Dumitriu felt that he cannot sustain his form over 90 minutes. If

must decide where best to play the Englishman. In an attacking role, he showed against Steaua, Celtic and Hearts that he can score goals, the problem is filling the hole he leaves in the midfield, a gap exploited by Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and

Smith could buy again and indeed there are suggestions that he is interested in Mikel Beck of Fortuna Cologne. The Danish striker would perhaps fill the gap which has been left in the

parture of Mark Hateley to QPR. quire major surgery, and while purchasing players is no guar-antee of success, Smith's best bet might be a long-term approach to bring quality young Scottish players through the ranks.

Sadly, Rangers' European fail-ure is an indictment of the whole of club football in Scotland at a time when, conversely, the naqualified for the latter stages of the European Championships.

### McRae can become the greatest

In the cuphoria of triumph, especially a triumph of this mag-nitude, it is easy to make exaggerated claims and rash predictions. Colin McRae is, after all, not only Britain's first rally world

champion but also the youngest. However, David Richards is not usually given to wild fancies or jingoistic tendencies. This, be reminded, is the dispassionate businessman who told McRae to concede the Catalunya rally to his team-mate, Carlos Sainz, for "sound commercial reasons".

So Richards' assertion following McRac's awesome victory in the Network Q RAC Rally this week, that his charge has the talent to become the greatest rally driver of them all, may have rather more substance than the regulation post-event eulogy.

Richards, boss of the Banbury-based Prodrive team that runs Subaru's rallying operation, said: "For anyone to be champion now, he has to be special. Colin is so focused that he really could surpass any of the previous champions.

Some drivers have to work at their driving, but some are naturals. Colin is a natural and he knows he is way quicker than any-one out there at the moment."

Richards stresses that McRae has had the ambition and diligence to harness his skill, but is patently challenging the 27-year-old Scot to go on and fulfil his prophecy.

"You have to set new goals and keep striving to improve," Richards said. "He's worked in this sport. Colin's been getting hard on his fitness and commitment. Now he's won the world championship it would be sumed. McRae said: "We are all too easy to settle for that, to starting again almost straight have an easy life now."

The businessman in Richards also recognises the rewards now beckoning for McRae. A bernation does not figure in first prize of £3,000 in the RAC McRae's immediate plans.

Britain's first world rally champion has awesome potential, says **Derick Allson** 

Rally, Richards points out, "is irrelevant". The championship is worth a bonus to the team of £2m and to McRae more than £1m. He could, suggests Richards, treble that figure annually from now on.

"If Colin wants to hibernate in Monaco, or with his mother in Lanarkshire, he can, but if he wants to develop the sponsorship market, anything is possi-ble," Richards said. "Carlos has been the best at it in rallying. He's been getting \$5m (£3.2m) a year from it." McRae, described

Richards as "genuinely shy", has been made aware that PR, like fitness and commitment, is part of the deal. He maintains, however, that sporting achievement remains the driving force. "Now is the time to take ad-

vantage of the financial possibilities, but the money is not the motivation," McRae said. "This is just the beginning. I want to be quick and consistent in all events. I'm still very new. 1 want to be there for a long time." His co-driver, Derek Ringer,

who has had to endure the scares and mishaps of McRae's formative years, testifics to the assiduity of his partner. Ringer said: "No one's an overnight sensation there for many years." The journey will soon be re-

away, testing for next year, in Kenva. Richards can be assured, hi-



Bare slopes: despite snow covering on just one of the trails at Park City, officials still hope to stage this weekend's men's World Cup ski races at the Utah resort

### Kite 'to captain US in 1997'

Tom Kite, a former US Open champion, will be captain of the 1997 US Ryder Cup team. The USPGA will announce the new Ryder Cup captain on 29 November, but unidentified sources close to the USPGA are in Sotogrande, Spain. quoted in an American magazine, Golfweek, as saying Kite

has already been chosen. Kite, 45, has played in seven Ryder Cup teams, most re- first round of the Australian lead on 68, four under par.

cently the winning effort cap-tained by Tom Watson at The Belfry in 1993. He was chosen from a list of candidates that included Larry Nelson, Ben Cren-

shaw and Curtis Strange. held from 26 to 28 September 1997 at Valderrama Golf Club

Greg Norman criticised the speed of the greens at Kingston Heath after struggling to stay in touch with the leaders in the

Open yesterday. The world No 1, chasing his first victory in his homeland since 1990, fired a level-par 72 to finish four shots

off the pace. There were putts out there The 32nd Ryder Cup will be that I haven't seen anywhere in the world." Norman said afterwards, referring to the lightning speed of the greens.

Five Australians - Peter McWhinney, Lyndsay Stephen. David Bransdon, Rob Whitlock and Lucien Tinkler - share the

### **Hearn kids the Americans**

Barry Hearn pulled off a major piece of kidology which en-abled Paul "Silky" Jones to Sheffield on Wednesday night. Hearn, Jones's manager, told handlers of the beaten champion, Verno Phillips, that Jones was nothing special and Jones kept his part of the bargain by taking the World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight title.

"I told them Silky Jones was no good," Hearn said. "I told American promoter Bob Arum that it would be an easy nay day.

"Jones had lost eight fights abled Paul "Silky" Jones to and will be a good fight for pull off a dream result in Phillips while he had nothing else to do before his mandatory defence. We wouldn't have got Phillips here if we had told them the truth. We knew Jones would box his ears off."

over Phillips's commitments to

Bronco McKart in a mandatory defence. It looks as if the Sheffield fighter will have no time to cash in with an easier first bout as champion.

Jones pulled himself up from a first-round knock-down and had a point deducted for a head butt in the ninth, but still took the verdict by scores of 116-111, 114-113 and 113-113. After his victory on a split decision. Jones, 29, must take of the bout as the champion after dominating the second half tired visibly.

### **Charlton kicks** off skills wall for youngsters

GLENN MOORE

Bobby Charlton, showing the same sense of timing that distinguished his football career. vesterday launched a new initiative designed to improve youngsters' basic ball skills.

As British interest in the European competitions was reduced to just Nottingham Forest, Charlton announced Footwall, a concept which, like all the best ideas, is so simple the only wonder is why no one had thought of it before.

A Footwall is a concrete wall, 10 metres by three metres, which is embedded in the ground with angled corners, like a triptych. The body of the wall is overlaid with a life-size photograph of goalmouth action from the Premiership. The idea is that children can use the wall, which will have target boxes painted on it, to practice shooting, passing and heading, either on their own, or with friends.

The wall will be paid for by advertising on the back and offered free to local authorities,

company behind it, Footwall, hopes to install 1,000 sites in the next year, with the cost covered by £5.2m in advertising revenue. The backdrop will be changed every fortnight to sustain in-

"I learned by playing in the street but, nowadays, the streets are full of cars," Charlton said. "Parents do not want their kids playing in them and they stay inside and play with computers and watch TV instead.

"Kids do not practice the basics anymore. They go straight into matches and hardly touch the ball. I want our youngsters to master their skills and make British football the envy of the

world again."
The idea is backed by the Football Association Premier League and has been tested by Aston Villa. There are some reservations, however. For instance, why was the Professional Football Association's excellent "Football in the Community" scheme not involved? Will sites have control over the choice of advertisements? Obviously, schools will not want cigarette or alcohol advertising schools and sports clubs. The on their premises.

### **Harriers put Woking** record on the line

Non-League notebook

LIZ SEARL Two teams who last met at

Wembley in May meet again tosurroundings of league footthey beat in last season's FA Trophy final, Kidderminster Har-

Now second in the Vauxhall Conference to Kidderminster's third, Woking are defending a remarkable home record of 20 matches undefeated, which dates back to Boxing Day last

Much of the credit for Woking's run is given to their solid defence, but Kidderminster, who last week ended a sevenweek spell without a win, may be more concerned tomorrow with two of the home side's forwards. Clive Walker, the Conference Player of the Year, is in top form with eight goals from seven matches, while Scott Steele has netted six goals in six

appearances. Both teams were involved in FA Cup first-round replays in midweek. Woking will take in-spiration from their 2-1 home

defeat of Barnet, which takes them through to the second round of the Cup for the seventh year running. In the cele-brations that ensued Woking fans became the first people to morrow in the more mundane taste Britain's newest beer, Cardinal Ale. The brew, so ball. Woking entertain the side called after the club's nickname, is being manufactured by a member of Woking's board of directors.

> On a more sober note, Kidderminster went out of the Cup in their replay when they were beaten 3-2 on penalties by Sutton United after a 1-1 draw. Nevertheless, Kidderminster have records of their own to pursue tomorrow. The Harriers striker Paul Davies, one of the top three goalscorers in the league this season, will be aiming to match the Conference's all-time goalscoring record. He notched up his 171st goal last weekend and will be keen to overtake the existing record of 172, held by the former Runcorn and Barnet striker, Mark

Because of extensive redevelopment in progress at Woking's Kingfield stadium, the game tomorrow will be all tick-

#### Sohail taken to hospital after bouncer

Aamir Sohail, the Pakistan batsman, was taken to hospital yesterday after being struck in the face by a bouncer from his team-mate Waqar Younis during a practice session in Melbourne. Sohail will miss the tourists' four-day match against Victo-

ria, starting today, after baving

stitches inserted in the wound The Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, said the opener, who was not wearing a helmet dur-ing the net practice at the MCG, should be fit to play in the third and final Test against Australia in Sydney next Thursday. After avoiding one bouncer,

Sohail failed to connect with an attempted hook when Waqar sent down another shortpitched delivery the next ball. Four West Indies players whose behaviour was considered "unsatisfactory" during the tour of England last summer have appeared before a disciplinary hearing in Bridgetown. The West Indies Cricket

# C35

Board of Control is yet to name the players, but the Caribbean News Agency, CANA, claimed Brian Lara, Cari Hooper. Curtly Ambrose and Kenny Benjamin | the majority of television viewers met the disciplinary committee. and not confined to those who pay tomorrow.

#### Leeds put Eyres up for sale Rugby League

Leeds, who have denied making a cash-plus-players offer to the Bradford Bulls for Paul Newlove, have put their in-ternational forward, Richie Eyres, on the transfer list, writes

Dave Hadfield. Eyres, who played for Wales in the World Cup, has been made available at £95,000, because of what the club described as "personal reasons".
But Leeds have emphatically denied offering three players

in their side to play Bradford on Francis Cummins and Graham es and one match respectively.

Holroyd - to the Bulls in partexchange for Newlove. The Leeds hooker, Mick

Shaw, has agreed a new threeyear contract. The 20-year-old has played in nine of Leeds' 13 first-team matches this season. The Wigan loose forward, Andy Farrell, is to put off a hernia operation to play in the Re-gal Trophy tie at Huddersfield on Sunday. He will only have the

operation if he suffers a reaction. St Helens will be without Vila Matautia and Andy Northey at Hull. The players, sent off for high tackles at Bradford last week, Sunday - Harvey Howard, were suspended for three match-

### **BBC** pots major championships

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association yesterday announced a fiveyear deal with the BBC, believed to be worth around £17.5m, for the rights to cover four major events - the Embassy World Championship, the Royal Liv-er Assurance UK Championship, the Benson and Hedges

Masters and the Grand Prix. The WPBSA were keen that the game should be available to

for a satellite channel. ITV made no bid and a Sky spokesman said that although they were involved in talks, no firm offer was made. Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Sport, said: "We are delighted to maintain our long and successful relationship with a sport which continues to hold such a wide appeal, particular-ly the world championship, which is firmly established in the portfolio of top sporting events." The BBC's coverage of the

Royal Liver Assurance UK

Championship at Preston begins

SPORTING DIGEST

DESCRIPTION COPEN (Kelvin Hell, Gian-gou) Med's singles first-rosset; I Lugessen (Den) ut K Encheen (Baut) 7: 15: 15-3: 15-4; H Bangs-son (Swet bit M Korphuk (Belanu) 15-8: 15-8; T Wapp I Swet bit K Preuisson (Aur) 13-15: 15-6 15-3: A Bush (Eng) in M C Schutz (Penu) 15-5 3-15: 15-7; A Han (US) bit D Zieba (Pol) 15-6

INBA: Boston 129 Chenotia 124: New York 94 Clevetand 84; Washington 98 Deroic 97; Miann 103 Golden Sizes 93; Orlando 95 Vancouver 93; Houston 159 Prizadelphr 100; Seattle 106 Min-nesota 97; Chicago 103 San Antonio 94; Mi-vaulee 98 Torona 98; Phoena 117 Atlanta 112: Usah 115 Sacralmento 95; U. Clippers 125 New

Boxing Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organstation super-middleweight champion.
will not defend his title against Ray Close
on health grounds. Close, who drew with
Chris Eubank, the former champion, in
1993 then lost to him a year later, failed

TOUR MATCH (Mackey, Aus., second day of four): Queersland 305 (A Symonds 73) and 13 for no vincient St Lanka 178 (Afjuna Ranapungs 77, M kasprovicz 7 for 64).

Chris Woods, the 35-year-old former England goalkeeper, has returned to Sheffield Wednesday after Reading did not extend his loan period at Elm Park. SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP Somi-final, second log: River Plate 0 Independente 0.

Whitphown 2 Southwist O. Avon issumence consistention First Dissipler Engistre 2 Cheeses 1; Orethor 2 Bresto Reven C. Lution 1 Southwarpson C. Norech 1 Oxford Utid C. Welford D Pertamouth 1; Perstol City 1 Melaysi 2. Second Dissipler: Bash 1 Seumenouth 3 Pyrmouth 2. Pestponned: League First Dissipler of Pertamouth 3 Pyrmouth 2. Pestponned: League First Divisions: Nors County 2 Othern 3; Sheff Utid 3 Notion Forest 1: Sheff Weld O Newcastle O. Second Divisions: Basicpool 4 Hui D. Germaty 1 Pestpon 1: Mansingly O Rothertson 4; Medicatorosph 4 Bernsley 1. Their Divisions: Bud Witschen Ruy 2 Designer 1. Taked Divisions Bud 4 Witschen 7; Designer 1 Carleste O. Rochale O Lincoln O, Scarborough 1 Carleste O; Stockport 3 Wegan 1.

ZMERARME OPEN (Marare) Leading first-moted (SA unless stated): 65 C Whitelow, 65 W West-rier, 67 S Papase S Lincoln, 65 A MacKerste (SB); W Corvess; Scholl, von der Merwer, 65 Muller, L. Wede, 69 J. Johnson (USI; M Normer; 3 van Vuterer, D van Staden; R Stawart, M McChang, 9 Muller, 1 Leading, 1 Marin, 1 Marin, 2 Miller, 1 D Marin, 1 Miller, 1 Marin, 1 Marin,

NUMBON DULES INTERNATIONAL SEVENS First round, Group Oner Arms 12 Advists (ASS 12 Advises-ter Eng.) 44 Handr's Say (N2) 35; Handr's Say (N2) 24 Kones 12; Leicester (Eng.) 24 Adartis (US) 5; Group Three: Worlder's Eng.) 35 Handres (Say) 15; Group Three: First (Say) 15; Group Three: First (Say) 16; This (Sa

SOUTH-WEST (v Wildlands, Cts Divisional Championship, Globobastar, romorrow, 3.0); T Stimpson (West Hartispool); J Mayfor (Dreil), W Greenwood (Fariagura), P Johnson (Orre), coop.
J Malfinder (Sale); R Lifey (Sale), A Hastley (Dreil); P Winstanley (Orrell), S Disenson (Gole), M Shelley (West Hartispool), Fourier (Sale), D Baldwin (Sale), M Greenwood (Wasps), N Asharist (Sale), C Vyronn (Sale), MILLANDS: J Questrill (Rugby Lores); R Sublimi (Berlond), A Kart (Mossely, B Whejstona (Bedford), H Thombycroft Morthampory); P Grayson (Northamport, cap), J Fart (Wennington Park); M Volland (Northamport), T Beddow (Northamport), N Wolland (Mossely, B Greenwook (Coustiby, R West (Gouzesten, I Ekingleley (Beddow) (Northamport)).

TODAY'S FIXTURES vennati com vijy v zonemans; Shebboune i Drogheda Utd. JEMSON DASIERN LEAGUE Fleat Division: Ches-tens Town v Kings Lynn, Pramier Division: Have-hill Roves v Hadleigh United; Sudbury Wenderers v Maureneth Town

DASSIGNMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF

22-101; Asanosho (5-6) bi Ognohana (7-5); Kutalachidoli (8-6) ta Homanoshima (6-5); Koto-bepu (8-6) bi Ognaha (7-5); Kasagana (7-5) bi Asanoshida (8-7); Mangapa (7-5) bi Asanoshida (8-7); Mangapa (8-7) bi Decheho (8-4); Tomanoshida (8-6) bi Mangapa (8-7) bi Deshida (8-6) bi Mangapa (8-7) bi Deshida (8-6) bi Mangapa (8-7); Kotomoska (8-6) bi Mangapa (8-7); Kotomoska (8-6) bi Mangapa (8-7); Kotomoska (4-8); Tomanoska (8-4); Toman

Tim Henman, the British No 2, yester-day reached the quarter-finals of the ATP Challenger tournament in Andorra with a 6-3, 7-6 second-round victory over Michael Joyce of the United States. WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Eindhoven, Methi; Red group: T He (10) and B Steven (NZ) bt M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Carl) 6-4 6-4. Blue group: R Leach and S Mohale (RS) bt L Libb (Arg) and J Sporteg (So).

Weightlifting

TODAY'S NUMBER

Damon Hill's position in a poll of experts to find the world's leading racing driver. The top 10, according to the survey by BBC Grand Prix 95 Magazine are: 1 Schumacher, 2 Alesi 3 Coulthard, 4 Hill, 5 Frentzen, 6 Berger, 7 Irvine. 8 Hakkinen, 9 Herbert, 10 Brundle.



### **LONDON BRONCOS**

Bucking the trend Page 30



#### **RANGERS**

Stifled by domestic ambition Page 31

# Rovers' fall may cost England dear

**GLENN MOORE** 

Football Correspondent

Blackburn Rovers' misadventure in Europe this season was deenough before Wednesday night's extraordinary brawl between two of their play-ers, but it now threatens the numher of places allocated to English clubs in European competition.

closed ranks yesterday following the incident which saw fists fly between two England internationals, Graeme Le Saux and David Batty, just four minutes into the way of contrast, reacted with re-

Champions' League game with Spartak Moscow. The fighting came after the two had clattered into one another near the touchline and then traded insults.

The only statement forthcoming from the club, which returned from Moscow yesterday. was a short statement from the chairman, Robert Coar, "The club is disappointed with the incident. Ray Harford will sit The club itself predictably down with the players tomorrow. If disciplinary action is deemed necessary it will be carried out internally," he said. The Football Association, by

markable speed and has al-ready written to European foot-ball's governing body. Ucfa, Whatever penalty Rovers im-pose – fining them two weeks expressing concern and asking it to take action. The consequence may be the loss of a Uefa

Cup representative next year. England was one of three countries given an extra place this season because of its fair play record. Uefa, which do not accept video evidence, are awaiting the reports from the referee and match observer. Should they take no action, the FA may charge Le Saux and Batty with bringing the game into disrepute. At present it insists the match

wages would appear the minimum - it is not an internal matter. It could be argued that Rovers have been bringing the punching team-mates. Oleg Romantsev, the manager reputation of English football into disrepute ever since they

woeful displays in East Lancashire, Norway and Poland, had prepared us for Wednesday night's madness in Moscow. That the English champions

embarked upon their Champi-

ons' League campaign. How-ever, nothing, not even the

oughly beaten and reduced to 10 men merely heaped humil-iation upon the shame. They were lucky to finish with 10. Players have been sent off for

of Spartak Moscow, summed up most people's reaction when he said: "It was most unexpected. This is the first time I have seen people settling scores on the field with a fist fight." Harford, the Rovers manager, was less forthcoming but he admitted: "I have never seen anything like it from players of mine. They will be dealt with within the club."

Whether Rovers can keep the matter internal must be open to question. "The club and Harford must punish the players now, in public, and the punishment must hurt," the local pa-per, the Lancashire Evening Telegraph, demanded yesterday

with understandable vigour. The incident underlined the depth of Blackburn's crisis, regardless of their improved domestic form. That Batty was involved would surprise no one. he has always been a midfield scrapper. However, the player who started the fight was Le Saux, who is widely regarded as one of

the more thoughtful footballers. He has, however, previously revealed a temperamental streak under pressure, even inappropriately lashing out at an Everton player during the Charity Shield. Indeed, he has been booked more times than Batty

during a career of similar length. The incident adds to the pressure on Harford. There is a feeling that Rovers' triumvirate of himself, Derek Fazackerley and Tony Parkes, for all their coaching qualities, lack the light touch which all teams need. It is all "bad cop" with no "good cop" figure to put an arm around

drooping shoulders. There are also accusations that Harford has favourites, a fatal weakness in

managing a dressing-room.

Quite what Blackburn's benefactor, Jack Walker, makes of it all can only be guessed at. Sadness was probably his overwhelming reaction. Throughout Europe Blackburn Rovers are no longer known for Alan Shearer's goals; they are the team who fight each other. For the first time since he reached for his cheque book Walker may have wondered whether it has

The wall game, page 31

### **Bradford win** wages battle

fight to stop paying goalkeeper Paul Tomlinson's wages. The Second Division side had been paying Tomlinson £650 a week for the past five months since he refused a contract, but the Football League's appeals com-mittee decided yesterday that he will not be paid after the end of the month. Bradford, however, can still demand a transfer fee for Tomlinson if he finds a new club.

Chris Kamara, Bradford's assistant manager, said: "It's a vic-tory for football that someone should not be allowed to stay at home and get paid. Freedom of contract is not designed for people who want to sit on their backsides. It's supposed to help those who want to play."

Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, has been censured by the Football Association after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute. He was charged, along with assistant manager John Williams, followmg remarks made to referee Barry Knight during the match

against Crewe on 16 September. The Queen's Park Rangers midfielder Simon Osborn is to have talks about his future with Ray Wilkins only five months af-

Bradford City have won their ter his £850,000 move from Reading. Osborn is unhappy about not being able to secure first-team football and is threatening to leave the club.

An inquiry into a complaint by the England coach, Terry Venables, that a group of people were orchestrating a smear campaign against him has been terminated by detectives, who

have not brought any charges.
Tommy Taylor, the Cambridge
manager, has banned his players
from night-clubs after midfielder Russell Stock was put out of the game for at least two weeks with a fractured eye socket following an incident during a night out. The FA and the Football and

Premier Leagues are to call a summit to settle their differences following their recent spat over television rights. The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, has written to his League counterparts, asking for a meeting to discuss the way forward. "The needs of the game and the unity of the game demand this," Kelly said. Spain's Union Deportivo Salamanca are preparing to make a £2.6m bid for Brazil's World Cup striker Romario. He



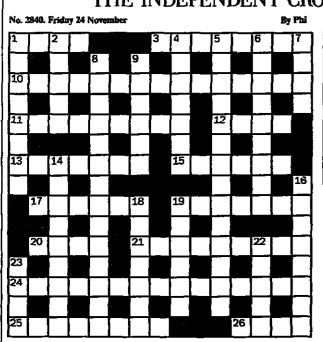
Graham Thorpe on his way to an unbeaten 131 against Orange Free State in Bloemfontein yesterday

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

is understood to be unhappy at

Flamengo, who have struggled in

the Brazilian league this year.



ACROSS

 Visionary puzzle creator losing heart (4) Fish in strips – a common sight in supermarkets (8)

10 Rouse a tanner to make a small circle (4,2,1,8) 11 Line that doesn't quite connect? Dodgy poets may 25

include it (9) 12 Operatic song forming second half of hymn to the Virgin? (4)

13 Ruler exercises right in centre of early civilisation, on reflection (7)

15 One daughter, brought in under restraint, put things away neath (6) 17 Puts repeated heavy pressure on currency (6)

woman's left out - about

19 Mild foreplay loose

time!(7)

20 Horse gives cry of discomfort when decapitated (4) 21 Think beer cart crashed end of ale! (9)

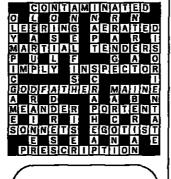
Stand payment endiessly? 26 Hint from line in what pre-

Call a halt or gap, possibly

- happy to lose core sci-

vious actor said? (4) DOWN Tense uprising in side awkwardly placed (8)
Affected by nobleman in

ancient history (5)
A fruit not yielding up its pith as nutritional food (7) Traditional opponents



swallowing alcohol in the gloom (9) The girl would disrobe? (4) Part one's coming to rein-terpret, sharing experi-

cording to political party Certainly, having source of 14 Early model – professional great wealth (8) Early model – professional kid, heading off exaggerated claims (9)

> to circumvent hindrance church (7)

vade castle (6) 22 Horrify a Nordic type in work on beach, right, sur-rounded by Aussies (4.3,7) uprising (5)
23 What'll make second mog-Has dinner on Sunday,

'See! British for us!' ac-

Electronic communicator? Still picking up pen, mostly

18 Various clucs are curtailed. being unsuitable for the

Overlooked attempt to in-

73

### **Stewart and Thorpe hit their stride**

#### Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON recorts from Bloemfontein England 316-4 dec Orange Free State 36-0

All those years of sporting isolation have clearly left South Africa in urgent need of re-educating their cricketing public, and the electronic scoreboard here subtly led yesterday's spectators through some of the more complex intricacies of the game.

'Great Shot!", it flashed, when someone played a great shot, and "That's Four Runs!" it blazed, when someone scored four runs. Happily for England, these cru-cial pieces of information were relayed with some regularity yesterday, after a depressing previous week when the only electrifying aspect of this tour had come from bolts of lightning.

However, while centuries from Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe were therapeutic enough, neither of them will find many pitches more ac-

sail dangerously close to flattery. The home team have recent-

ly changed their name from Orange Free State to Goodyear Free State, which will doubtless lead to Roses matches between Kelloggs Yorkshire and Tesco Lancashire when our own marketing men cotton on to the possibilities. Yesterday, though, without Allan Donald and Franklyn Stephenson, the Goodyear team were op-

erating on a set of baid tyres. On the other hand, England did well to give the pre-Test trial their full attention in an almost total lack of atmosphere. Here in the heart of Afrikaaner country - where anyone trying to change the name of the ground from Springbok Park to Protea Pastures will get very short shrift - rugby is the major game, and 31 years without a visit from the England cricket team has not brought Bloemfontein to the

brink of fever pitch. The unluckiest batsman yes-terday was the captain, Michael torius. Thereafter, the only risk involved in facing Pretorius

was in getting over-excited. Mark Ramprakash was England's other failure, chopping a wide delivery on to his stumps after scratching out 15 runs in 20 overs, and his place in next week's second Test match remains very much under threat. It might have been even more so had Atherton not declared when John Crawley was going

well towards the end of the day. The opportunities to get out to a wide delivery yesterday were certainly plentiful, but Stewart and Thorpe are so strong square of the wicket that the fielders at cover point and square leg were lucky to get off the field without sustaining nasty injuries. Stewart hit 21 fours off 182

balls in his 35th first-class century, although his average of a three-figure score every 15 innings or so is not a great return for a player of his ability. Atherton, by contrast, has scored the

commodating than this one. Atherton, who was caught in the same number of centuries in than what had gone on earlier. nor an attack for whom the de-scription undemanding would off a nasty lifter from Nico Pre-Stewart, though, scored his

runs a good bit more quickly than Thorpe, who kept pinching the strike off his Surrey team-mate. Stewart, having volunteered unsuccessfully to retire and give someone else a bat after reaching three figures, finally gave it away slogging at the left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, Ibw on the back leg. Boje contributed most of the

43 overs of spin orchestrated by the Free State and South African captain, Hansie Cronje, which made sure (purely coincidentally, no doubt) that England's pre-Test batting practice was something other than a replica of what is expected in Johannesburg.

Robin Smith fell, as he did in the match at Kimberley, to an uncontrolled leg glance to the wicketkeeper, but Thorpe was still there on 131 (262 balls, 20 fours) when Atherton decided to give the Free State half an hour's batting before the close. This, as it happens, did rather less for the side's confidence

Kimberley, since when he has clearly not lost the ability to bring a serious glower to the face of Raymond Illingworth. As Malcolm - bowling every-

Devon Malcolm had not bowled

where other than at the stumps - gave away 19 runs off four scattergun overs, the manager got up from his seat, glanced into the adjacent press box, and proferred one of his "care to swap jobs?" expressions.

### Setback for Moore as Mitchell earns England call-up

**Rugby Union** 

Brian Moore suffered a setback in his campaign to regain his England place yesterday when his Harlequins club-mate Simon Mitchell, who rotates the hooking duties with Moore, was drafted into an expanded squad.

Moore was dropped from the squad for last Saturday's Test against South Africa after winning 64 caps.

Mitchell is one of nine players added to the Twickenham squad for training at Marlow next Tuesday in the build-up to the Test against Western Samoa on 16 December.

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Paul Hull, the full-back Eng-land rejected at the start of the year, is recalled. Also back in the squad are Tim Stimpson, the West Hartlepool full-back, Wasns' backs Nick Greenstock and Andy Gomarsall, Leicester prop Darren Garforth and back row forwards Rory Jenkins (Harlequins) and Tony Diprose

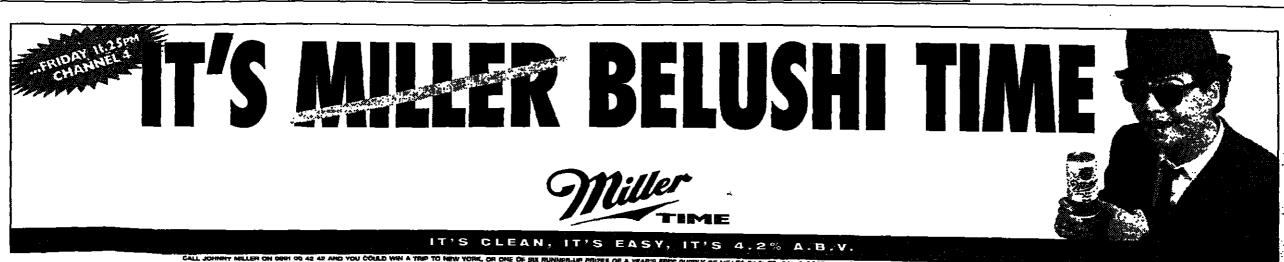
ficial squad for the first time, along with Mitchell, is the Orrell wing Jim Naylor. Simon Shaw, the Bristol lock,

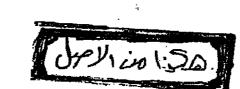
would have been included but for his borrific leg injury on Wednes-day. It is likely that Sale's John Fowler will come in instead to reinforce the lock strength.

Shaw will miss the rest of the season after suffering career-threatening leg and ankle injuries during Bristol's 26-12 defeat by

(Saracens). Called into the of- South African tourists Transvaal on Wednesday. He sustained a double dislocation of his left ankle and a fractured shin. He also damaged the ligaments and tendons in his ankle.

The break and the dislocation should not prove a problem long term, but Bristol's coaching co ordinator, Brian Hanlon, said surgeons are worried about the ligament damage. "If anything poses a long-term threat to his career, it is that," he said.





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